Peace process debated in secret session

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament Sunday held a closed session to pursue discussion of the latest developments of the peace process. At the outset of the session, which was attended by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and cabinet ministers. Speaker Taher Masri said the session was a continuation of a previous one which was dedicated to discussing the latest developments of the peace process and should therefore be a closed session. Several deputies, including Abdul Karim Al Dughmi, Abdullah Akaileh, Bassam Haddadin, Mohammad Heino, Bassam Al Emoush and Ahmad Kofahi, demanded that the session be held publicly, saying that there was no need for a closed session following His Majesty King Hussein's address of Saturday in which the King clarified many issues. Deputies Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh and Mohammad Abu Oleim requested that the session he held behind closed doors since it was a continuation of the previous closed session. After a debate of the issue Mr. Masri decided to hold a closed session and requested press representatives and others to leave the place.

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Israel, PLO to hold new economic talks

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TEL AVIV (AFP) - Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organistion (PLO) will meet for a fresh round of talks on the economic aspects of their autonomy deal in Paris on Monday, a finance ministry official said. It will be the fifth meeting of the economic committee set up under the Sept. (3 autonomy agreement which has led donors to pledge \$2 billion for the Palestinians over two years. The Israeli delegation will he led by senior treasmy official David Broden. The econumic committee is one of the four set up to work out how to implement autonomy in the Gaza Strip and West Bank jown of Jericho.

Israeli-backed gunman wounded

made a MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (AP) - A roadside bomb explosion seriously wounded an Israeli-affiliated militia officer in South Lehanon Sunday. security sources said. They said the attack occurred near the village of Talloussch, on the edge of the central sector of Haifir . Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" at 2:15 p.m. (1215 GMT). No group claimed responsibility for the explosion. set off by remote control as the officer drove on the main road Dr Cre to the village. His car was gutted. The security sources. speaking on condition of anonymity, said the area in Boung which the attack occurred suggested that the Hizbollah was 3E 2s b hehind it. They identified the wounded man only by his leodename of Abn Dalk, an OTT. Who: officer with the South Lehanon army militia.

Kuwait jails bedoun for 'collaboration'

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) - A at awaii. Kuwaiii court Sunday sentenced a man to ltt years in prison after convicting him of serving in the Iraqi army during the occupation. Juher Saghir Farhan, a 34-year-old bedouin or a resident with no nationality, was convicted by the high state security court of joining the "popular army." an auxiliary of the Iraqi army, the official KUNA news agency reported. Another bedoun. Hani Marzuk, was aquitted of collaboration charges for lack of evidence. Since U.S. led sident Od forces freed Kuwait from seven months of Iraq occupation in February 1991, more than 200 nd the Re people, including many be-X) Incited; doun, have been convicted of hate eter collaboration and given va-

7 killed in Algerian violence

rious sentences.

ALGIERS (AFP) - Unidentified gunmen killed seven civilians in separate incidents in an upsurge of violence Friday and tended as Saturday, security service officials said Sunday. Over the othght lil same two-day period a number a mod of schools and colleges were targeted in arson attacks in various parts of the country, the sources said. Meanwhile armed groups targeted educational establishments. Three colleges and two schools were attacked in Blida, a college and a grammar school in Oum Al Bouaghi, a grammar school in Cheef and a college in 'Ain Defia. Security service vehicles officials said some 60 lorries. and con coaches and priblic services were also the subject of arson on peace a and the N attacks in the same period.

Right-wing rebel

me another. indiable es Mr. Pres arrested in Moscow MOSCOW (R) - Police bave le were 35 ocium for arrested a right-wing leader who helped conservative hardtations of ion. Thos liners defend Russia's White House parliament building in jed Demi October last year, Interfax news agency said on Sunday. The ageocy said Alexander ne invited Barkashov, head of the banned ae around ake conte nationalist Russian National Unity movement, bad been arrested late last week and transferred to a special Interior Ministry bospital. He was the last ringleader of the rebellion still being sought by police. An Interior Ministry official, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters that the ministry would publish a formal statement about Mr. Barkasbov

Kaddoumi to lead PLO team to Amman talks

King's call for coordination reflected deep concern over delays — Anani

By Lamis K. Andoni Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN -- The head of the Palestine Liberanoo Organisation (PLO) political department Farouk Kaddoumi, will arrive in Amman this week to launch a new beginning for coordination with Jordan over peace talks with Israel, PLO sources said Sunday.

The planned visit of the toplevel PLO delegation reflected an important shift in the organisation's tactic to focus on closer coordination with the Arab states, particularly Jordan, after the failure so far of oegotiations with Israel to implemeet Palestinian autonomy.

Initially, Palestiniao Presideot and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat had appeared reluctant to bind himself to any agreements with Jordao regarding the Kingdom's role during the agreed-opon transitional Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. But last week Mr. Arafat made a surprise visit to Amman for urgent discussions with His Majesty King Hussein about obstacles impeding Palestinian antonomy.

In a revealing by candid address to senior Jordanian army officers, King Hissein said Sunday that he has cautioned Mr. Arafat that if coordination did not start this week it could be the last chance before Jordan and the PLO find themselves taking separate courses. (see separate

Pregnant

in Gaza

nian witnesses said.

woman shot

GAZA CITY, Occupied Gaza Strip (Agencies) — Israeli

troops shot and wounded six

Palestinians, including a pre-gnant woman, during clashes in Gaza City Sunday, Palesti-

Trouble crupted when

youngsters pelted stones at an

Israeli post near Palestine

as Palestinians chased the

youngsters but ran into a hos-

tile crowd and opened fire, the

witnesses said. Two women,

one of them four months pre-

gnant, were among the six peo-

Hundreds of Palestinians be-

came involved in the violence

and soldiers arrested about 30

An activist from the occu-

pied Gaza Strip bas claimed responsibility for the killing of

two Israelis inside Israel,

Palestinian sources said Sun-

Local reporters said Farid

Kaisi, a 2I-year-old activist

from Fateb, told them on

Saturday he killed David Bub-

lil and Haim Weizman in

Ramle on Friday to avenge the

killing of a colleague by Israeli

Both men were found dead,

Any link of Fatch could

embarrass its bead, Palestine

Liberation Organistion (PLO)

Chairman Yasser Arafat, who

bas committed Fateh and the

PLO to stopping all attacks on Israelis since the PLO and

Israel signed a peace agree-

kilometres southwest of Tel

Aviv, first thought the killings

were related to drugs. They

said both men were known

But a police spokeswoman

said on Sunday they were in-

vestigating the possibility the

killings were politically moti-vated after they found the

identitiy card of a Gaza Palesti-

Mr. Kaisi told reporters in

Gaza he left his identity card

there to claim responsibility.

(Continued on page 5)

nian next to the bodies.

Police in Ramle, about 15

ment in September.

troops about a month ago.

their throats cut.

ple shot.

people.

Undercover troops disguised

Information Minister Jawad Al Anani told Jordan Television Sunday that the King's statements reflected deep concern about the resumption of coor-

dination with the PLO. "(The King's speech) reflected deep concern that coordination should be on the highest levels and on very clear basis," Dr. Anani said.

Mr. Arafat promised King Hussein to send a delegation on Tuesday to start immediate coordination with Jordan. But the Jordanian government seems to be concerned that the PLO leader might pot off the meetings, as he has done in the past pending clearer results of Palestinian-Israeli negotia-

According to Dr. Anani, the King was stressing the time element in getting the PLO to start serious discussions with Jordan about the peace process and Jordanian-Palestinian relations. The minister explained that the King was actually calling for putting a definite timetable for Jordanian-Palestinian

"The relationship is affected by the peace process and the ongoing (Israeli-Palestinian) negotiations," Dr. Anani pointed out. "Consequently, any delay or postponement of coordination could pose serious threats to Jordan,"

In his address, King Hussein also disclosed that he has appealed to Mr. Arafat to drop his 'demand for establishing

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAEL WITHHELD

approval Sunday for a new

round of peace talks with the

Palestine Liberation Organisa-

tion (PLO) and Prime Minister

Yitzhak Rabin reportedly told

his cabinet he was willing to let

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat

rejected Israeli "blackmail"

over the resumption of auton-

omy talks, after Israel warned

that the organisation would

first have to accept a disputed

"We are not involved in

negoriations in which ultima-

tums can be issued." senior

PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath

"No side can accept such

He said the "text presented

by Israel as an accord is only a

draft working paper drawn up by the Israeli delegation and

on which the Palestinian de-

legation never gave its agree-

But the PLO is "serious in

its desire to reach a solution to

the problems as quickly as possible, if the other party

shows the same will," he said.

that his country would return

10 the autonomy talks only if

the PLO accepted the docu-

ment drafted by negotiators in

the Palestinians' turn to sweat

it out," Israel Radio quoted

Mr. Rabin as telling ministers

at the weekly cabinel meeting.

The Palestinians have called

for new negotiations in the

Egyptian Red Sea resort of

Taba on Monday following re-

criminations over whether any

agreement was made during

negotiations in Cairo last

Israel announced Wednes-

day that the Palestinians had

agreed to a draft document

which would give joint control

of border crossings and double

the size of the autonomous

area of Jericho to about 60

"We are not in a hurry, it's

Mr. Rabin warned earlier

In Cairo, the PLO said it

'sweat a bit."

Cairo document.

told AFP

blackmail.

Cairo.

Israel insists new

talks only after PLO

accepts Cairo paper

square kilometres.

tbeir word.

confederal ties in the immediate future.

Mr. Arafat bas been insisting that an agreement with Jordan should be part of a confederation between two independent states.

PLO officials told the Jordan Times last week that the two sides bave agreed, following the King's two-hour meeting with Mr. Arafat, to effectively put off the discussion of future relations and focus on immediate specific issues.

Tunis-based PLO officials said that the leadership bas read the King's speech carefully, but did not see any reason to alter its plans.

The two sides are in dire need of each other. Neither of us can afford a crisis." said a Tunis-based PLO official.

The King has also expressed annoyance with suggestions that Jordan was opposing Palestinian control over the crossings points between Jordan and Jericho.

Israeli negotiators have told the PLO they could not yield to Palestinian demands to control the crossing points since Jordan "objected" to such a

The issue was clarified during Thursday's meeting and the King and Mr. Arafat concluded that closer coordination was crucial to boost each other's negotiating standing vis-a-vis Israel. But many differences remain that the Two

(Continued on page 3)

But the PLO denied any

accord and the Israeli press has

reported that Mr. Arafat is

insisting on no Israeli presence

at points where Palestinians

will cross into the autonomous

enclaves from Jordan and

Israel alleged Palestinian

Mr. Rabin warned that if

negoriators had gone back on

Mr. Arafat failed to accept the

Cairo document, then all pre-

vious agreements would be put

aside and everything would be

reaching agreements?" Mr.

Rabin asked in an interview on

In an interview with Israeli

army radio, Dr. Shaath said

both sides still disagreed on the

size of the autonomous Jericho

area to be vacated by Israel

and control over border cros-

sings for Palestinians.
"Whereas the Israeli side is

always very sensitive about any

symbol of sovereignty," Dr.

Shaath said. "We are also very

sensitive about the attempt to

continue Israeli control of

Palestinians in the occupied

Shaath received a fax from

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres

saying Israel was prepared to

resume talks in Taba but no

Mr. Rabin said any new

talks would be held on the

basis of the agreements

reached in Cairo. Mr. Rabin

told his ministers during the

weekly cabinet meeting that he

Environment Minister Yossi

Sarid, a member of the nego-

tiating team, said Israel was

now waiting for clarifications

his path of thinking and nego-

(Continued on page 10)

"Frankly, I can't understand

date was mentioned.

was in no hurry.

from the PLO.

tiations," he said.

During the interview, Dr.

territories.'

'What's the point of

open to negotiation.

Israeli army radio.

King: Jordan resisting pressures for treaty before solving basic issues Coordination with Palestinians needed now world and reiterated Jordan's once we have reached an rejection of any single counacceptable and reasonable re-

Majesty King Hussein has revealed that Jordan came under immense pressure to sign a separate peace treaty with Israel but that the Kingdom would not eoter any sucb agreement without resolving basic outstanding issues with the Jewish state the human dimension of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the return of Jordanian land occupied by Israel and the restoration of the Kingdom's water rights.

In an address to senior Armed Forces officers on Saturday, the King also emphasised the importance of a comprehensive peace settlement and of Jerusalem as a city holy to all three monotheistic religions of the

try exercising sovereignty over the Islamic shrines. "We have lately come

under pressure, hut we will not succumb to what we see as unjust." said the King.
"We will bow only to
Almighty God..." The King said Jordan stood

firm on its stand that a peace treaty should "come only at" the end of the oegotiations when all issues bave been solved in a manner satisfactory to ourselves and the other parties involved in the peace process,'

Peace is not a matter of ink on paper or a document signed before negotiations start," said the King. "We should discuss everything and sult the peace we seek would have been achieved," he

"We strive to follow this course and we are focusing on three main issues," the King said, listing the issues as the land Israel occupied in 1967, Jordan's water rights and, in the Jordanian-Palestinian context, the human dimension of the con-

King Hussein also gave Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat a "last chance" to agree on future Jordanian-Palestinian relations in talks this week."I consider the meeting I had with President Arafat 48 bours ago to have



been decisive," King Hussein said of the PLO chairman's (Continued on page 3)

Assad expects have new proposals

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad expects to hear new proposals for reviving peace talks with Israel when he meets U.S. President Bill Clinton in Geneva later this month, official radio said Sunday.

not have arranged the meeting if he did not have new (proposals) to move the peace process forward and revive hopes for

"Syria would like to know the new (proposals) of the American administration which bas decided to play the role of full, active and effective partner." in the Arab-Israeli

Official bilateral peace talks between Israel and Syria are expected to resume in Washington in early February after Mr. Clinton and Mr. Assad meet in Geneva on Jan.

participant said on Sunday.

Heights.
"The document reflects readiness of the Syrians present to accept that full peace is exactly wbat it is - normalisation, open borders, consular and diplomatic relations, trade and cultural relations," Mr. Olmert told Reuters.

talks with Syria.

He said the document was passed on to the Israeli and Syrian leadership.

Israeli-Syrian peace talks began more than two years ago but have been unable to reconcile Israeli demands for "full peace" with Syrian insistence on a full Israeli pullout from

Asked about the meetings, reported by Israeli newspapers, Mr. Rabin's spokesman Gad Ben-Ari, said: "They are not being conducted on behalf of the government of Israel. They do not bind us in any

Clinton to

Gulf crisis.

"President Clinton would peace," Damascus Radio said.

He said the emir of Oatar.

peace talks, it said.

Israeli and Syrian academies, meeting secretly in Norway, agreed on a document that could foreshadow a breakthrough in their governments' peace talks, an Israeli

Professor Yossi Olmert, who attended the last meeting in October, said two Syrian academics present spelled out a vision of "full peace" in exchange for a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan

"I think there is a discussion that this should be Syrian policy. I think it could be an important indication." said Mr. Olmert, a former negotiator to Washington peace

the Golan Heights.

Ministers said they were Mr. Rabin said in a weekend confident agreement would be radio interview he expected a reached eventually, but that it positive change in the Syrian position at the Clinton-Assad

Qatari minister ends visit saying reconciliation sealed

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Jassem Al Thani Sunday wound up a visit to Jordan saying his two days of talks here had sealed Qatari-Jordanian reconciliation after a strain caused by the 1990-91 Sheikh Hamad, addressing

a press conference before leaving for home, also announced the formation of a joint committee at foreign ministers' level to develop political and economic cooperation between Jordan and his country.

Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani, was planning a state visit to Jordan. He did. not give any date. Sheikh Hamad conveyed a

message from the emir to His Majesty King Hussein and held talks with Prime Minis-



Sheikh Hamad Al Thani

ter Abdul Salam Majali. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan and other officials in his first visit to Jordan after the Gulf cri-

His Royal Highness Crown

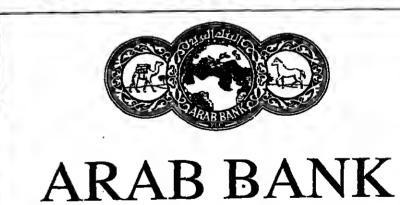
Prince Hassan visited Qatar in the second half of 1993 and held high-level talks with the emir and senior Qatari officials on political and economic relations and means to revitalise cooperation.

Sheikh Hamad's visit to Jordan was seen as a followup to the process launched during the Crown Prince's visit to Doha.

His discussions here covered inter-Arab differences. bi lateral relations and the

peace process. The Jordan News Agency. Petra, quoted Dr. Majali and Sheikh Hamad as calling for Arab countries to settle their differences and emphasising the need "to reestablish Arab solidarity on the basis of mutual trust and confi-

Petra quoted Sheikh Hamad as voicing his couniry's support for Jordan's (Continued on page .10)



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year-old

radition

Fierce fighting rages Syria joins criticism of Vatican DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria on Sunday joined critics of the Israeli-Vatican accord, saying the Holy See had made a "serious mistake" by recognising the Jewish state. The Vatican "has given up The Vatican of the holy places and the accord "gives Israel a free hand in the affairs of the holy places and the accord "gives Israel a free hand in the affairs of the holy places and the accord "gives Israel a free hand in the affairs of the holy places and the accord "gives Israel a free hand in the affairs of the holy places and the accord "gives Israel a free hand in the affairs of the holy places and the accord "gives Israel a free hand in the affairs of the holy places and the accord "gives Israel a free hand in the affairs of the holy places and the accord "gives Israel a free hand in the affairs of the holy places and the accord "gives Israel a free hand in the affairs of the holy places and the accord "gives Israel a free hand in the affairs of the holy places and the accord "gives Israel a free hand in the affairs of the holy places and the accord "gives Israel a free hand in the affairs of the holy places and the accord "gives Israel a free hand in the affairs of the holy places and the accord "gives Israel a free hand in the affairs of the holy places and the accord "gives Israel a free hand in the accord the Israeli-Vatican accord the Israeli-Vatican accord the Israeli-Vatican accord the Israeli-Vatican

Dozens were feared dead and et least 351) wounded in Kabul as rocket and artillery hattles faged for a second day Sunday getween Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani's forces and fighters led by an ex-com-

munist general. The two main hospitals in the city centre reported 350 wounded and at least eight dead, but doctors said the humber was likely to rise once the bombardment eased and those needing treatment were able to reach hospitals. No exact death toll was

available hecause bodies were not taken to hospitals during the fiercest rocket and artillery fire in Kabul for six months. Blistering rocket and artillery exchanges erupted for the second day at dawn between forces loyal to Mr. Rabbani and fighters led by northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum, backed by hardline Prime Minister Gulbuddin - Hekmatvar.

Plumes of smoke spiralled above Kabul as thousands of rockets, shells and mortars battered the city, many missing their military targets and hit-

ting residential areas.
Small-arms skirmishes rattled through the deserted - streets, preventing the wounded from reaching hospitals. Only a few tanks and taxis -- raced through the streets.

Erratic electricity supplies to the war shattened city were cut off, and only a few residents emerged from their homes. dodging rockets and shrapnel

only shops still open in Kabul. A Rabbani spokesman said the president's forces appeared to have gained the upper hand in 13 hours of artillery battles that began at dawn on New

Year's Day. He said the president's fighters captured the airport which had been held by Gen. Dostum's forces since the ex-communist general defected to the guerrillas, toppling the former Communist government in April 1992. The report could not be independently con-

Presidential spokesman Abdul Aziz Morad said Gen. Dostum's men had started the clash, the first between Mr. Rabbani and the warlord based in the northern city of Mazare-Sharif since the coalition government took power,

A spokesman for Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami Party said in neighbouring Pakistan that all groups opposed to Mr. Rabba-ni were fighting against his

Minister of State Security General Fahim told Reuters that Hezb-e-Islami forces were taking part in the battle. Guerrillas of the Shiite Hezb-e-Wahdat Party, another

their weight behind Gen. Dostum, a spokesman said. Hundreds of rockets were being fired between hilltop positions held by the rival groups around the city.

member of the coalition gov-

ernment, have also thrown

street battles between Rahhani forces and Dostum fighters

whose posts and checkpoints often stand almost side by side in a city divided into a patchwork of rival fiefdoms that have co-existed in uneasy neutrality for months. Concentrated rocket and

artillery fire came from the ancient hilltop Bala Hissar fort, just south of the city centre, that is held by Gen. Dostum's militia.

Rabbani commander Pahlawan Mahnait said the battles in Kabul marked the spread of hostilities from the north. where Gen. Dostum's men have clashed sporadically with government troops for weeks.

He said tighting between government forces and Dostum militia in the north escalated on Friday when jets belonging to a Rabbani ally, governor Ismail Khan of the western city of Herat, bombed Dostum position in the northern province of Farvab.

After months of only sporadic fighting, the huge clash began in the pre-dawn hours of New Year's Day. There was a full overnight, and then heavy fighting began again Sunday at

Workers with the International Committee of the Red Cross, normally the most reli-able source for casualty figures, had to take cover from the shelling in the basements of their homes, and no one was at

Hundreds still held in Algerian camps

out charge two years ago in a crackdown on Islamic fun-damentalists are still held in Sahara desert camps, a human rights group has charged. The detainees, held at Oued Namous and 'Ain M'guel in

ALGIERS (Agencies) - At

least 780 people rounded with-

the country's vast southern desert, are the last of some 9,000 people herded into a total of five camps in March 1992. Kamel Rezag Bara, a lawyer and president of the state's

official National Observatory for Human Rights, made the figures public in an interview published Sunday in the newspaper Al Moudjahid.

His statements contradicted assertions Oct. 31 by Justice Minister Mohammad Teguia that all the detention centres had been closed.

Three days earlier, an independent human-rights league had reported that some 1,000 people were still detained. The vast majority have never been . charged with a crime or tried. They were rounded up en masse as the military-backed government that seized power in January 1992 to prevent a ... fundamentalist election victory tried to crush its opponents. Despite steady escalation of repression, including the sentencing of some 300 suspects to death, authorities have been unable to stamp out an armed

revolt by extremists.

"The application of antiterrorist legislation may have led to, in a certain number of cases, abuses and excesses," Rezag Bara said. "We have asked for judicial inquests into a certain number of suspecious

Algerian newspapers mean-wbile reported Sunday that a captain of the national police survived being shot and stabbed Wednesday in the elevator of his apartment building.

Authorities suspect that mic extremists whose insurgency has claimed some 2,000 lives over the past two years, primarily among the police and

The insurgents have recently turned their sights on foreigners, mostly employees of foreign oil companies, killing 24 since September in an apparent bid to destabilise the economy.

On Oct. 28, the chairman of the Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights, Abdul Nour Ali Yahia. announced that nearly 1,000 extremists continued to be detained in two of these centres.

Legal investigations were ordered after reports of brutalities by security forces and suspect cases of sudden death. Human rights league charges of torture could not be investigated as no complaints had been filed. Mr. Rezag-Bara

Sanctions were imposed against a number of officials after about a dozen legal ac-

tions had been entered for alleged ill-treatment. Algerian authorities voided a first-round election won by the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in De-

cember 1991 and then banned

a second round of voting later detaining FIS leaders. Rezag-Bara said fresh elections would have to be held some day, hut he added: There are kinds of oppression from ballot boxes that are more dangerous than organisations that do not rely on ballot

The Vatican "has given up on Jerusalem and struck a blow against he aspirations and rights of the Arabs, both Christians and Muslims," charged the government daily Tishrin.

ence to the status of East Jerusalem, the accord "ignores the destiny of an entire people." Israel and the Vatican signed the recognition accord on,

Thursday in occupied Jeru-

It said tht by avoiding refer-

the occupied Palestinian territories.

"It is clear that the Vatican has committed a serious mistake," said the daily. The Holy See has gone back on its support for the Palestinians and "given legitimacy to the viola-tions of the holy sites."

It said the Pope's planned visit to Lebanon was aimed at securing the region's acceptance of the accord with Israel.

In Lebanon pro-Iranian groups on Saturday denounced the Israeli-Vatican agreement, with group calling for a boycott of the papal visit in May.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bouez said: "We would have preferred it if Israel's recognition by the Vatican had taken place after the Jewish state complied with the principles" of Middle East peace

The pact should "at least be part of pressure on Israel to implement international resolutions" ont he return of occupied Arab territories, Mr. Bouez said.

Arafat is 'confident' of independent state

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palesti-nian leader Yasser Arafat has said he was "confident" an independent Palestinian state would come into existence with Jerusalem as its capital.

Mr. Arafat, in a message marking the 29th anniversary of the creation of his Fatch movement faction, called on the Palestinian people to remain united to achieve this "sacred

He said the autonomy accord signed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel in September in Washington has carried the Palestinians to a new era that should witness the establishment of the "first Palestinian national authority" in the Gaza Strip and Jericho in the West Bank.

"We enter the new era with confidence and a lot of hope, but without any illusions." Mr. Arafat said, stressing that their were still many difficulties to surmount.

Israel and the PLO have not reached an agreement yet over details that have so far blocked the implementation of the autonomy agreement in the occupied territories. Negotiations between the wo sides have stumbled over

the boundaries of Jericho, the

security of Jewish settlements and the control of the international borders of the auton-Mr. Arafat said the accord was just a first step towards peace which would not be com-

plete before implementing all United Nations Security Council resolutions and regaining 'all Arab rights at all the He also referred to the im-

portance of "Arah coordination" to boost the Arab stand ainst israei in the negotiations. The PLO leader had been criticised by some Arab coun-

trics, notably Syria, for signing a treaty with Israel without consulting with other Arab states. Mr. Arafat said a complete

Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, "the capital of our independent state," was still the ultimate goal.

He also listed among the future gnals of the PLO. guaranteeing the human rights of Palestinian refugees according to international conventions, drawing out the final borders of the future state and solving the issue of growing Jewish settlements in the occu-

After all that, Mr. Arafat said, the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples would have to vote "frecly and voluntarily for or against a confederation.

Compromise proposals

The PLO is pressing for separate border control windows to vet everyone entering and leaving its self-rule areas with only discreet Israeli monitoring, according to a draft of its thoughts following talks in Egypt.

In a document faxed to Israel Thursday, the organisation said it rejected an Israeli proposal for one border checkpoint terminal, with an Israeli window and a Palestinian window, separated by a linted glass partitioin.

"There will be two entry terminals instead of one. One to Gaza and Jericho under complete Palestinian supervision wherehy security coor-dination with Israel would be through an invisible Israeli monitoring post," the document said

"The other terminal leading to the rest of the West Bank will be under joint supervision. and there will be international presence on both terminals or on the Palestinian-controlled terminal if the Israelis reject joint supervision on the second

The arrangement, it said, would apply to anyone crossing through Rafah passage and the three bridges on the River Jordan as well as ports and air-

A document drafted in Cairo and rejected hy the PLO said : "There will be nne terminal, with an Israeli window a Palestinian window, separated hy a tinted glass partition.
"Palestinian visitors will pass through the Israeli window first. Israelis and visitors to Israel will go straight to the Israeli window.

The PLO said the Cairo draft arrangements for passage gives Israeli officials the right to vet Palestinians before Palestinian officials even see

We reject Israel's suggestion that Palestinian visitors would pass through an Israeli window first, we demand they pass through the Palestinian authority window, with invisihle Israeli monitoring only," a PLO official said.

He explained that "invisible" monitoring could take the form of electronic monitoring

The PLO did not challenge a section of the Israeli draft giving each side the right of veto over who enters the self-rule

The crossing dispute is one of three holding up Israeli withdrawal from the two areas and the start of Palestinian self-rule under the agreement Israel and the PLO signed in September. The withdrawal was originally meant to start by After talks in Cairo this

thought they had agreed on a draft joint text. Mr. Arafat then sent the document, challenging each point. On Friday an Israeli official described Mr. Arafat's de-

week, the Israelis said they

tailed comments on the draft as unreasunable. On one of the other dispu-

les, the size of the Jericho area, the PLO document demanded the area be linked to border crossings on the River It rejected an Israeli propos-

al 10 allow Palestinian self-rule West Bank. "Therefore the PLO decision is to group the areas proposed in the Israeli draft so they comprise one area including Jericho area pro-vided they are linked to the bridges on the Jordan River,'

On the third dispute, the PLO paper said the area connecting Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip should not execed 24 square kilometres.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Justice minister to represent Iraq in Tunis talks

AMMAN (AP) - Iraqi Justice Minister Shabib Al Maliki left Amman for Tunis on Sunday to represent his country at a meeting of Arab interior ministers in the place of Interior Minister Wathban Al Takriti, a cousin of President Saddam Hussein. There was no immediate explanation why the justice minister was standing in for the interior minister, who is said to be involved in a row with President Saddam over security lapses related to a failed assassination attempt against the president in September. Mr. Takriti has not ventured out of the country since assuming office shortly after the Gulf war, which dislodged Iraq from Kuwait following a seven month occupation in February 1991. Adel Ibrahim, spokesman for the Iraqi embassy in Amman, confirmed that Mr. Maliki flew to Tunis along with his Jordanian counterpart, Salameh Hammad. He declined further comment.

Kurdish revolt claims first 1994 victims

ANKARA (R) - A Kurdish separatist revolt claimed its first victims of the new year when rebels killed eight bus passengers in southeast Turkey, officials said on Sunday. Officials in the emergency rule governor's office in Diyarbakir said Kurdish Labour Pany (PKK) militants stopped two buses on the Diyarbakir-Elazig road Saturday night. The guerrillas took eight people from the buses, intercepted at a flying roadblock about four kilometres from the town of Maden, took them into a field and shot them dead. There was no immediate word on the motive for the killings. The PKK has been fighting for an independent Kurdish state in the southeast since 1984. The revolt has killed about 10.500 people in Turkey, more than 4,000 of whom died in 1993 alone — the bloodiest year since the start of the insurgency. Prime Minister Tansu Ciller and Deputy Prime Minister Murat Karayalcin celebrated the New Year in Diyarbakir to show the government's resolve to keep control over the troubled region. "We are very determined to end terrorism in 1994." Ms. Ciller said, describing the struggle against the PKK and economic problems as the main challenges facing her government in the New Year.

Turks clash with Kurds in Belgium

BRUSSLES (R) - Turks and Kurdish separatists clashed late on Saturday night in a Turkish quarter of Brussels, leaving several people injured and property damaged, Belgian RTBF radio reported on Sunday. It said the Turks were trying to prevent a meeting of between 150 to 200 Kurds from taking place in a hall in the Saint-Josse area of north Brussels. They became angry when a Kurdish flag was drapped outside over the balcony, RTBF said. Police intervened and dispersed the crowd with a water cannon shortly after midnight. Six police and five civilians were injured, none seriously, Brussels police said. Several windows and car windscreens were broken, they added. RTBF radio said the meeting was arranged by the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) to mark the end of a four-day protest march from Cologne. Germany banned the PKK and affiliated groups in November.

Turkmen president visits Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) - Turkmen President Separmurad Niyazov arrived in Iran Sunday for a four-day visit aimed at following up on agreements between the two countries. Mr. Niyazov heading a high-level political and economic delegation, including Turkmenistan's foreign and oil ministers, was received at the airport by his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. The Turkmen leader told reporters that his country wanted to tap Iran's expertise in various fields. All the participants at the December summit of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in Ashkhabad, including Russia, welcomed an expansion of ties between Türkmenistan and Iran, he said. "It was decided that such independent contacts would not harm, but on the contrary, be in the interest of other members of the CIS," said Mr. Niyazov. Mr. Rafsaniani, who visited Turkmenistan in October as part of a tour of Central Asia and the Caucasus, welcomed improved relations and vast economic cooperation between the two states, which share a long border.

Israeli set for first Winter Olympics

TEL AVIV (AFP) - Israel will be represented at a winter Olympics for the first time in Lillehammer next month when Georgian immigrant Misha Shmerkin takes to the ice. Shmerin. 24. who arrived in Israel from Odessa two years ago. qualified for the Olympics with a 19th place at the world figure skating championships in Prague. His new home town of Metulla, on the border with Lebanon, expects to start work on a \$3 million Olympic size skating rink during the games in Norway. In the meantime he will attend a training camp in Russia. Olympic delegation chief Yossi Goldberg said: "It's a small step on ice for Metulla, but a giant step for the sport in

Oman, Iran discuss tax doubling

MUSCAT (R) Omani and Iranian officials have begun talks in Muscat on avoiding tax duplication on revenues from air transport between the two Gulf neighbours, the Omani News Agency said Sunday. The sultanate faces Iran across the Gulf and the Arabian Sea. The commander of Oman's navy discussed naval cooperation with I ranian leaders in Tehran last

Strike of Athens workers continues

ATHENS (AFP) — A strike by employees of the Atbens private transportation system entered its 19th day Sunday with only 650 buses out of 1,700 on city streets, backed up by 400 military buses. Dozens of private bus owners continued to block bus depots at Hellenikon and Rendi. often with their families Strkers said they would continue their industrial action as long as the government refused to pay compensation, provided for in a law adopted by parliament on Dec. 16, for renationalising Athens transports.

Ousting of British envoy Sudan's irritation with West shows Islamic fundamentalist govern-His visit. like that of Pope what it wouldn't dare do in the in the south, where African assistance and cooperation to Sudan, except in the field of

cision to expel Britain's ambas-, sador reflects not only its anger at its former colonial power. but growing irritation with the West, according to observers

officially, the order came because Ambassador Peter Streams "does not serve the interests of the two countries." a Sudanese Foreign Ministry statement said.

The Sudanese government blamed Mr. Streams for the cancellation of a visit of Khartoum of the archbishop of Canterbury. George Carey, because of a disagreement with Sudan's

Archbishop Carey set out from Nairobi Thursday to visit Christians at Nimule, on the Ugandan border in rebel-held southern Sudan. The Khartoum government is at war with southern rebels. Britain has threatened to ex-

pel Sudan's envoy to London after Khartoum ordered Mr. Streams to leave within 15 days and set a deadline of Jan. 4 for Khartoum's response.

According to Sudaoese opposition figures in Cairo. Sudan was very eager to host Archbishop Carey.

Anglican Church Tel. 638851, Tel.

John Paul II in 1990, "would have enabled the government to improve its bad reputation by promoting an image of religious tolerance." an opposi-tion member said.

The ambassador's ouster goes beyond the framework of bilateral ties, the dissident said. It expresses the government's overall irritation with the West, which has remained steadfast vis-a-vis Khartoum despite its attempts at open-

The regime "did to Britain. which it considers weaker. United States," he said.

Criticism of Mr. Streams was a relatively harmless reaction to the Americans' actions, he said referring to the U.S. ambassador to Sudan who has repeatedly visited the guerrillacontrolled regions via Nairobi.

The Sodanese government. which came to power in a coup in 1989, has flaunted its fundamentalist tendencies in a country where a third of the population is non-Muslim.

Most Muslims live in the north, which is predominantly Arah. Muslims are a minority

influences prevail. Apart from animists, Christians are about equally divided

between Catholics and Protes-Sharia, is in force in the north but nnt the south. The Sudanese government also includes an episcopalian in the

cahinet. Reverend Gabriel Rorej, who serves as minister nf state for foreign affairs. Britain reacted strongly to the overthrow of the democratically-elected regime of lor-mer premier Sadek Al Mahdi.

Like most Western states.

Britain has halted economic

humanitarian aid and diplomatic ties. More recently, Khartoum accused Britain and Egypt of

behind-the-scenes maneouvres to bar the government and the outlawed Sudan People's Liberation Army from reaching an accord during talks in the Nigerian capital in May. Sudan's membership of the

International Monetary Fund was suspended under pressure from Washington, and the U.S. has openly backed the south's "right to self-determination.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER'

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Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

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FOR THE TRAVELLED **QUEEN ALIA** INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

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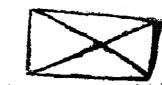
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Jordan insists on securing water rights in peace talks

AMMAN (Petral - Any solution to the Jordanian-Israeli conflict in the Arab-Israeli hilateral talks will inevitably have to address Jordan's water shortage problem, Munther Haddadin, water expert and member of the Jordanian de-legation to the Middle East peace talks, said Sunday,

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Haddadin said article three of the agenda of the Jordanian-Israeli bilateral talks, which was concluded recently, states that both sides should get their legitimate share of water sources shared by them,

The issue will be discussed in official talks between the two sides as soon as the coming round of the Arab-Israeli bilateral talks starts, he said.

GHOR AL SAFI (Petra) — The Arab Potash Company

(APC) has prepared an invest-

ment and production plan until

the year 2000 and the APC

board has endorsed the invest-

ment programme and the

capital spending totalling

JD 380 million according to

APC chairman Ali Ensour. The 1994 budget estimated

that JD 73.3 million would fi-

nance production expenses on

the basis that APC will this

year produce 1.6 million ton-

nes of potash yeilding a pre-tax

Capital spending was estimated at JD 79.8 million in

1994 to cover the cost of

financing the expansion pro-

ject and the commencement of

work on chemical industries

according to Mr. Ensour, who

was addressing a press confer-

cover upgrading the machinery

and other equipment used in

the production of potash, with

the aim of raising production capacity to JD 1.8 million ton-

Mr. Ensour noted that work

on expanding the facilities to

increase production was ex-

nected to end in the firsthalf of

Ensour several types of che-mical industries will be carried

cialised American firm and the

Jordanian private sector.

Under the plan, noted Mr.

The capital expenditure will

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Dr. Haddadin said Jordan would focus in the negotiations on a sub-agenda which would include all the points related to the water of the Yarmouk and the Jordan rivers.

Jordan, he said, has rights to international rivers it is sharing with other countries in accordance with international charters. But, he added, the Jordan River's tributaries in Jordanian territory, south of the Yarmouk River, are internal valleys whose water had been used since the 1950s to irrigate lands in the eastern Jordan valley. and thus, are considered Jordanian waters.

Reviewing Jordan's plans to exploit the Jordan River, Dr. Haddadin said Jordan has prepared a plan to use the river and its tributaries in 1939 and

Potash company unveils expansion plans

A ship loads Jordanian potash at Aqaba (file photo)-

and expenses is adopted in

order to be able to compete

with other world producers of

potash. He noted that the price

of potasb bas dropped by 20

the plan aimed mainly at irrigating lands in the eastern Jordan Valley. The plan was up-dated in 1950 for the same

On the other side of the river, before the establishment of Israel, the Jewish agency had drawn counterplans for the use of the Jordan River. Following the establishment of the Jewish state in 1948, Israel had drawn two more plans, he added.

clashed with the Jordanian ones, and even the Israeli ambitions in Arab water had exceeded the borders of Palestine and included plans to use the Litani River in Lebanon. he said.

The Israeli plans had always

Dr. Haddadin noted that Israel draws water from the Jordan River to the Palestinian coast for agricultural projects and even to the Neger Desert to reform lands while the Jordanian water plans have only concentrated on the use of the river's water in the Jordan Valley basin itself.

Israel's attempts to control Arab waters continued after 1967, when Israel occupied the West Bank and the Golun Heights, and the Israelis put under their control most of the Jordan River's sources and tributaries north of Tiberius Lake, he said.

He added that Israel also managed to antrol the sources of the Yarmouk River after the 1967 war, thus violating all international standards and charters on the use of joint water sources.

Agreement signed to restore and develop Islamic sites

AMMAN (Petra) - Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid Sunday signed an agreement with a representative of a local engineering group to prepare plans, designs and documents for developing and restoring areas where mosques and tombs of prophet Mohammad's companions are located. Prince Ra'd, who chairs a Royal Committee in charge of restoration of the tombs and mosques of the Prophet's companions, said the project comes in response to His Majesty King Hussein's directives to develop and restore these places. Awgaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Abdul Salam Al Abbadi, who is also vice president of the Royal commission, said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency. Petra. that the agreement covers two projects: The tombs of the Propher's companions in South Jordan and Irbid's Grand Mos-

The tombs development project includes restoration of the tombs and their sites in the south of Jordan and the construction of a new mosque in addition to setting up gardens and a new agricultural road linking the tomb sites with Mutah battle site, in Mazar. Dr. Abbadi said the agree-

The general structure plan. which involves infrastructure services and studies on the new constructions, including the construction of a new mosuue in the tombs' area and the con-

struction of gardens and courts. Dr. Ahbadi noted that the agreement's duration is 48

sites (Petra photo) weeks, and that the first tender will be floated in August. On the development of Irbid Grand Mosque. Dr. Abbadi said the project includes the

preparation of studies and designs for the mosques area and new facilities attached to it. Tender for the development of this mosque will he floated in June, according to Dr. Abbadi.

the restoration and development of Islamic

The signing ceremony was attended by Public Works and Housing Minister Abdul Razzaq Ensour and Awqaf Secretary-General Ahmad Helavel.



Prince Ra'd, the minister of public and housing and other senior officials view designs for

ment covers three major areas: Al Aswaq selects Prince Hassan 'man of the year'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Aswaq Arabic Daily has chosen His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan as the "1993 man of the year" for his outstanding performance in a number of areas.

A 15-member selection panel, comprising the newspaper's editorial board and well-known academics, have identified five areas among others where Prince Hassan's performance was outstanding. These areas include: the Crown Prince's understanding of the historical context as a complete whole and avoiding selectivity in adopting positions and his ability to achieve the major goal of the national economic reform programme which resulted in an international consent to reduce Jordan's foreign debt.

In this context, the newspaper cited the Crown-Prince's talks with the American administration, the World Bank,

the International Monetary Fund and his meetings with the European Community and Japanese officials, on Jordan's indebtedness.

Prince Hassan's ability to penetrate the siege which Jor-dan has been subjected to over the past three years, through the different meetings of the Arab Thought Forum was also another area where Prince Hassan's performance was outstanding, the paper said. The other points of strength included the Crown Prince's concept of comprehensive security which combines both political and economic agendas. Al Aswaq also noted in particular Prince Hassan's Performance

in dealing with the Palestinian people and addressing the issue of Jerusalem, as well as his daily demonstrations of democratic work and institutional mentality.



Arab interior ministers

meet AMMAN (Petra) - Intérior Minister Salameh Hammad left Amman for Tunisia Sunday to head Jordanian's delegation to the meetings of the

Ministers due to open Monday.
In a statement prior to his departure. Mr. Hammad said the council's meeting was of extreme importance because of the current situation prevailing in the Arab region and the efforts being exerted to mend Arab rifts.

Council of Arah Interior

The Arah interior ministers, he said, would discuss in their three-day meetings several issues, mainly an Arah agreement on combatting drug traf-l ficking which was prepared by a committee of Arah lawyers and specialists in order to be adopted by all Arah countries.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess Wijdan opens exhibition

IRBID (Petra) - Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Ali Sunday opened an art exhibition by Jordanian artist Basem Badarneb at Irbid's Tareq Ben Ziyad Park. The exhibinon, which will last for several days, includes paintings depicting natural sites and traditional life in Jordan. Princess Wijdan also chaired a meeting at the park for the founding constituency of the Irbid Haya Centre. Princess Wijdan stressed at the meeting the need to prepare a clear philosophy outlining the

Amaireh opens art exhibition

day opened an art exhibition by the Sudanese artist Abdul Qader Al Bakbit held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC). On display are 40 paintings reflecting daily life in the Arab and Islamic world in general, and Sudan in particular.

University to take part in meeting

AMMAN (Petra) - Al Al Bait University will take part in the first meeting on developing resources of Islamic architecture and arts, organised by the Aghakhan Programme for Islamie Architecture and Art of Harvard University. The meeting will be held in Istanbul next week. Representing the university at the meeting will be Mobammad Al Assad from the Higher

PLA commander congratulates King

AMMAN (Petra) -- Commander of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) in Jordan, Abdul Rahim Qudsieh, Sunday sent a cable to His Majesty King Hussein, congratulating bim on the new year and voicing pride in the King's honourable stands towards the Palestinian people. Brigadier Qudsieh voiced appreciation for King Hussein's continuous support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and for his stand

AMMAN (Petra) - The municipality of Greater Amman Saturday lit 40 kilometres as part of the municipality's plans to light main roads. According to Greater Amman Mayor Mamdouh Al Abbadi, more roads will be lit during the first three months of this year. The total cost of the road electrification project is JD 1.4 million, be said.

Sunday is a religious holiday

anniversary, which commemorates the day when Prophet Mohammad ascended to heaven, Sunday Jan. 9. In observance of the occasion, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, issued a communique ordering the closure of all government departments, ministries and public institutions.

Police investigating 'mysterious' death of 28-year-old man

By Rana Husseini Special to the Jordan Times

control over the operations on Suleiman, Howari said the ... He said APC expects the

general investment and pro-

duction plan took into consid-

eration that the potash produc-

non volume would become 1.5

million tonnes to be sold to

other countries at the rate of

AMMAN -- Police in Ghor Al Safi are investigating the possibility of a 28-year-old man being killed on New Year's

A.A.M. was declared dead upon arrival to Ghor Al Safi Hospital of head injury.

A close friend of the victim. identified as T. N, told the police that he had invited the victim for dinner at one of their friend's house on New Year eve. After dinner the group had some drinks to celebrate the new year and then they all went to sleep, according to the police report.

T.N. told the police he went to wake A.A.M the next morning and discovered that "he was in a coma". A.A.M was carried to Ghor Al Safi Hospital by civil defence officers but was pronounced dead upon

Military to the first beauty of

the end of 1997.

construction of additional faci-

lities would be completed by

He added that the APC

board expects an overall re-

venues of JD 89 million at the

Preliminary investigations by police said the friends of the victim were surprised of his death, because, they said, the victim had no enemies and he was liked by everyone. Police are investigating the case.

Man gets shot

In another case, a 48-yearold man was carried to Jordan University Hospital, Friday. after being shot accidently by a group of people celebrating the new year's day, according to a police report.

M.A.S. told police that after eating dinner at Al Humar Park he went to buy ciggaretts when he was shot accidently by a group of people who were celebrating the new year in an

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulleons and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Art exhibition by artist Sadik Kwaish entitled "Talisma" at Baladna Art Gallery.
- Art exhibition by Jordanian artist Suha Mash'al at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Art exhibition by I: ji artist Abdul Jabbar Salman on bedonin culture at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition on the 100th anniversary of the death of French novelist Gu; De Maupassant at the French Cultural Cente.
- ☆ Exhibition of Iraq! books at the Royal Cultural Centre. Art exhibition by a number of Jordanian artists entitled
- "The Sixth Exhibition Samples From The Contemporary Jordanian Art 93" at the Spanish Cultural Centre. ★ Exhibition "Prints and Drawings of Fakhrelnissa Zeid" (1915-1991) until the 15th of January '94 at Darat al Funna

FILM AND DRAMA

"Permanent" Exhibition. (Tel. 643251/2).

☆ Film entitled "The Wall" at the Phoenix Gallery, for Art and Culture at 6:00 p.m.

of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation. Also showing the

the Drama for children entitled "The Question" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

King: Jordan resisting pressures

(Continued from page 1)

unexpected visit on Thurs-

"We told him it was the last chance from our side, and after that let each side carry the responsibility on his own," the King said.

King Hussein also said that he had asked Mr. Arafat to stop referring to a future Jordanian-Palestinian confederation. Mr. Arafat, who had kept

the Kingdom and his other Arab partners in the dark over the secret talks with Israel that led to the Sept. 13 self-rule accord, bas been arguing that Jordan should not worry about his moves since a confederation is the ulnimate goal.

"I have requested my brother (Arafat) to drop the expression of confederation from his dictionary and not to discuss it in any form or manner," said the King.
King Hussein said the

shape of Jordanian-Palestinian relations was an issue for the future. "Our enemies and ignorant elements as well as other parties have exploited the talk of confederation to undermine the special (Jordanian-Palestinian) relationship."

"Jordan can only support the PLO with all its energies if there is a clearly defined path which means that commitment is commitment... and not in a whiriwind of talk that does not produce real results," King Hussein said.

The King said the PLO leader promised him PLO-Jordanian committees set up before the PLO-Israel accord but never activated would begin meeting on Tuesday. "I don't now... but I pray

to God the brothers will be up to the level needed, I advised them lately and tried telling them that the situation has changed," he said.

The King also rejected reports that Jordan favoured continued Israeli control of crossing points between the Kingdom and the West Bank.
We reproach our brethren for such reports."

he said. "It is not logical that Jordan wants Israeli control over the bridges (across the River Jordan) and the crossing points."

Following are major excerpts from the King's speech:

We are doing everything possible along with other Arab states to deal with outstanding issues with the aim of achieving security, stability and peace.

We are therefore reexamining everything in the light of our means and our potentials, and the chances for this aim are feasible and could belp to attain development. Therefore, the study of the situation is continuing on our side in cooperation with the other par-

In a quick review of the past, the Kingdom, since its creation, has been striving to achieve the best for the Arabs because it is part of this nation facing tragedies and sharing with Arab countries their catastrophies.

It defended the Palestinian land and people with the country's Armed Forces taking part in the 1948 and 1967 wars helping to save the major part of Palestinian land left for the

Palestinian people. There were attempts to marginalise the role of the Armed Forces, but all these attempts bave failed. In the 1950s the Jordanian Armed Forces were Arabised when changes were

introduced to the army's lead-

ers to play a leading role in

lands. We expressed that any

Arab efforts to liberate Arab lands. In 1967, and after the first Arab summit in Cairo, the PLO was born, Jordan was facing continued Israeli aggression allegedly in reply to Jordanian attacks coming from Jordan. Therefore we reached an understanding for collective Arab action in defence of Arab

> aggression on any Arab state should be confronted by the Arab countries together. The eyes are now focused on the Jordanian-Palestinian relations which have been distinguished relations over the years. But hostile forces, including Arab forces and Palestinians as well, striving to sow seeds of dissent and discord, adversely

> > tions. In my belief, had we not

affecting the bilateral rela-

entered the 1967 war, an inter-

(Continued from page 1) sides will need to iron out.

The PLO leadership was supposed to decide this week on how to deal with a draft economic agreement that defines Jordan's role and relationship with the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the interim period.

Mr. Arafat has been hesitant to sign the agreement lest Israel could use it to turn down his demand for setting up an independent Palestinian central bank as a symbol of Palestinian sovereignty.

Jordanian officials, however, do not accept this argument. They point out that in the absence of a clear provision in the agreement giving monetary powers to the Palestinian authority, the Palestinians would have practically to choose between total control by the Israeli central bank or

Kaddoumi to lead PLO team an agreement with the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ).

In his comments on Jordan Television Sunday, Dr. Anani referred to Jordan's stand towards a peace treaty with Israel.

He said King Hussein's vision and farsightedness have always proved valid in most cases if not all the time. A peace treaty could be

signed only when all issues of concern, including water, people, refugees, security and displaced persons, are settled.

"It is then, when we become sure that peace will be comprehensive and just, talk about a peace treaty will have a mean-

ing," Dr. Anani said.
"King Hussein has always called for rallying Arab ranks and mobilising Arab resources. to serve the battle for peace. and make the Israeli power unable to dominate the great Arab circle," Dr. Anani said.

nal explosion would have occurred and then the chance would have opened for Istael to occupy this country.

Since the 1967 war, we have been struggling to regain the lost lands first through a joint Arab command, and we were told that we should struggle to regain the West Bank, Jerusalem and Gaza. Arab leaders agreed that no single Arab country should reach a separate peace with Israel but through a comprehensive solution on all tracks.

We are trying hard to regain the occupied territories and not to be left under international supervision, but regrettably the PLO was chosen in: 1974 to serve as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. In other words, the PLO have replaced Jordan to deal with the question of regaining the occupied

When the question of peace was put forth for discussion we entered the process under a. joint Jordaniau-Palestinian umbrella to see that U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 implemented but with the separate Israeli-PLO deal we had to cast off the idea of joint delegation because there was no need to continue the joint effort. So as to remain committed to the Arab summit decision of 1974 of giving the PLO the sole right to deal with the issue, we decided to support the PLO leadership's agreement concluded in Oslo.

Peace is not a matter of ink on paper or a document signed before the negotiations start. We should discuss everything and once we have reached an acceptable and reasonable result, the peace that we seek would have been achieved.

We face Israeli pressure but we will not succumb to what we see as unjust. We will bow only to Almighty God.

We will continue to provide backing to the Palestinian people but we cannot keep moving in a vicious circle without any objective and we should follow a course that is clearly defined which also should meet com-

APC, he pointed out, folper cent from 1992 levels. lows a system by which strict APC Managing Director

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for the minister of culture, the ministry's Secretary-General Mohammad Naji Amaireh Sun-

Institute for Islamic Architecture and Art.

Municipality lights 40 kilometres of roads

AMMAN (Petra) - Jordan will observe Al Israa Wal Mi'raj

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Finally, some response

PLO CHAIRMAN Yasser Arafat has every right to demand and work for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip; and, we think, his people will eventually get what they want. But he must have realised by now that for the Israelis to agree to such an eventuality, and for the world community to bless it, the PLO leader needs to play his cards right, wait for a while and give priority to building Palestinian institutions that would be mature and healthy enough to deliver such a state.

In undertaking this major task, Mr. Arafat cannot afford to alienate everybody he knows. There are a few toes around, anyway, that he can step on. On the other hand, he has every reason to cultivate the support of especially those who are most ready and willing to help him achieve full rights. Jordan is on top of the list of those countries which not only back the PLO-Israel agreement, but whose national security also depends on the success of the accord. True, Jordan is not yet ready to discuss a confederation with Chairman Arafat, simply because such a link can take place only between sovereign states, but there is no question that the Kingdom is fully committed to helping our Palestinian brethren in their quest for realising their legitimate rights, including self-determination and statehood.

Jordan, however, has its own interests, which, incidentally or otherwise, in no way clash with Palestinian aspirations for independence. Furthermore, what the leadership of this country has been asking of the PLO leader is no more than what Mr. Arafat himself has been demanding of other Arabs, namely coordination and cooperation on

It was the Palestinians who insisted right from the beginning of the Madrid talks in the fall of 1991 on full coordination among the Arab parties to the ace process: Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians. As a result of its secret agreement with Israel the PLO managed to alienate Syria and, by extension, Lebanon. Jordan, as the PLO is fully aware, has not taken such a position. To the contrary, it has forgiven Mr. Arafat for reaching a separate deal with Israel, and His Majesty the King went as far as congratulating the PLO leader on his courage in reaching the Oslo accords.

But while Mr. Arafat might understandably be occupied with everything under the sun, he must remember that the mind of the Jordanian leadership is set on guarding the real interests of an Arab state, whose wellbeing is of vital interest to the cause of Palestine. Whatever agreement the Palestinians reach or fail to reach with the Israelis is going to have its consequences on Jordan. Therefore, coordination among the two parties is not a luxury, it is a necessity. The Palestinian leadership certainly realises that it has a stake in a strong Jordan both during the transitional period and afterwards. And that is why the arrival here this week of a delegation to start real coordination should be such a welcome

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

COMMENTING ON the beginning of a new year. At Ra's Arabic daily said we had thought 1993 would carry with it peace in our region, but the year has passed by without the fulfilment of our aspirations and hopes. We had thought the year 1993 would end on a positive note and would witness real progress in the peace negotiations with Israel, bur these hopes have been dashed, largely due to Israel's intransigence, the paper continued. Contrary to these hopes of the Palestinians and the Arabs in general nothing was achieved and no progress was ever attained, added the paper. Arab negotiators last year were involved in extensive talks with the Israelis in Washington and other parts of the world, bur all their efforts have gone in vain due to Israel's adamant stand, according to the paper. The result is that all these endeavours have ended in nought, to the great frustration of the Palestinians in the first peace, added Al Ra'i. On the other hand, Arab leaders are still at odds and their countries are ignoring the fact that only through solidarity they can regain their usurped rights and occupied lands, the paper pointed out. At present, the Arab states are in need of solidarity at a time when they are trying to cope with the so-called new world order and Israel's aggression on and occupation of Arab land, said the paper. This is happening at a time when Iraq remains suffering from the U.N.-imposed sanctions, exposing the people to further sufferings, it argued. The paper said that there is no a alternative to solidarity and serious efforts to end this situation

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily discussed the plight of Al Muhajireen District, neat Ras Al Ain — one of the oldest districts of Amman - which is threatened to be demolished soon by Amman Municipality under the excuse of developing that part of the capital. Is demolishing of 86 homes, 30 stores, two schools, a factory and an old mosque a civilised way to achieve development, asked Isam Qadamani. Years back, the municipality cleared the way for the capital to stretch w. twards, only to disover later that by doing so Jordan had lost valuable agricultural land that used to contribute to food production, said Qadamani.

Islam — a religion, a political force and more

By Izzat R. Dajani

MOST COUNTRIES in the Middle East have transformed from certainly traditional tu relatively modern societies. This came about as a result of the 19th and 20th century imperialism and economic change. No allowance was made then for the incorporation of Islamic political movements in this modernisation process, leading to a diminished role of Islam in public life. People identified their political aspirations in national rather than religious expressions, leaving to Islam the role of personal faith. This led to the emergence of Islamic political movements that rejected the separation between religion, nationality and state. They further demanded the return to the comprehensive Islamic state as a representation of their political, religious and social identity. The intelligentsia and the urban lower classes were among those groups that found great appeal in these movements. They wanted to change the world they lived in. They made Islam as their way of life, the expression of one's self and the superordinate of all their goals and aspirations,

Islam regulates life and makes society. It cares for its individuals and is amenable to assign them different roles in life. The state draws its strength and power from Islam. The Islamic empire that extended from the Pyrences to the Himalayas was a result of the unity of spirit and self in every Muslim. "Islam was the essential factor, the only bond to unify the people, the Muslims, and if this bond became the focus of their lives and loyalty, forces of solidarity would emerge and make possible the cteation of a strong

state," Al Afghani wrote, In order to understand the influence of Islam over politics, it is imperative to be able to appreciate the history of the birth of Islam and its evolution. Islam has thirteen centuries of history. The Koran is the Holy Book and is a collection of all tevelations that God bestowed upon Mohammad, the Prophet, The words of God constitute the message intended for the people of God. The Sunna is the "example" of the Prophet. It was also understood by some Muslims as the family of the Prophet, which led in turn to the largest degree of disagreement in the Islamic community. They wanted the family of Prophet Mohammad to continue leading the Muslims after his death. The majority of Muslims, however, saw in this a contradiction to Islamic principles whereby

spread. The Koran is the constitution the community ruled by (consensus). Ali Prophet Muhammad's consin and son-in-law by his marriage to Fatima, was the father to Mahammad's only two grandsons to teach maturity. Hasan and Hussein. When Prophet Mohamworld tudity.
The effect of Islam is hest

mad died, the Muslims appointed Abu Baker us Caliph (ruler) hy lima a. re-jecting the rule by kinship to the Prophet, as in Ali s case. Then came Omat. followed hy Othman, and eventually Ali became Caliph. The descendants of Alt. kept a spe-cial standing in the Muslim World. They were disting-uished and held in great esteem and respect, as their ancestors extended back to Ali's sons and hence to Prophet Mohammad. Their role in Islamic history is important and the living examples today are Hussein (the King of Jordan) and Hassan (the King of Morocco). By opposing the transition of power outside the dynasty of Mohammad, Shi'ism came into being and became the symbol of opposition tu claims to legitimacy and state. The majority of Arabs remained to be Sunnis, and hence the Shiites concentrated their influence on non-Arab Muslims, as in Iran

ity of secular governments. 'ism arriculated social discontent and political protest. It saw itself as representing the persecuted minority. The Shirtes believed they were the righteous few dominated by the wrongful majority. The Koran was passed on to them by the Prophet and the 12 Imams (successors tu the Prophet). They have a special knowledge of the Holy Book and the martyrdom of their first leader. Hussein, is their model of self-sacrifice. This has become their means for achieving Islamie goals. The teligious leaders in present day Iran expressed this fully in their war with Iraq and in their presence in some parts of Lebanon (offering financial and logistic fielp to Lebanese Shiites). "Since Iran is the only state to have begun to implement 'true' Islam, it is thought to be the world's only legitimate state. with a unique obligation of facilitating the worldwide implementation of Islamie law. Force and violence are not only acceptable but necessary means of doing so. ternational Herald Tribune

Iran's fundamentalism and

Islamic militancy constitute

the best living example of

Shiite rejection of the author-

today.

Saudi Arabia is the other extreme to Iran's Shi'ism. It is the place where Prophet Mohammad was born and from where Islam had

commented on Oct. 18, 1984.

and the Sharia's (Islamic law) is the country's source of laws and regulations. To Saudis, Islam is the politicalreligious hase from which their identity is expressed. Saudi Arahia commands a special status to more than Sixt million Muslims in the

expressed by the presence of the ulema (religious scholars) and their public forum every Friday. They hold very in-fluential views that can effect social, political, ecunomical and cultural issues. They have access to the highest authority and can exert a lot uf power. Islam in Saudi Arabia is a way of life in every respect. It characterises the religious life of every Mus-lim. Saudi foreign policy and international behaviour are examples of the role Islam plays in Saudi Arabia political moves. The Islamic conference is also of great importance and reflects a great deal of Saudi "nutionalist-religious" attitude and aspira-tions. The International Islamic Conference in Mecca in 1962 declared: "Those who disavow Islam and distort its call under the guise of nationalism are actually the most bitter enemies of the Arabs whose glories are inseparable from the glories of Islam." However, Saudi Ara-bia remains to be an authoritarian government irrespective of its Islamic teachings. Secular influences are present in the country, leaving a wider gap between the official puntanical stance and daily activity. Social and religious tensions are surfacing more and more, The Saudi royal family draws its authority and legitimacy from its custodianship of the two holy

mosques. This is another classical case of Islam politi-The Middle East is a reservoir fur the writings and in-fluences of many thinkers and idealists. They mostly seem to either have emerged ftom or expressed their thuughts in Egypt or the Fertile Crescent. Two opposing and different characteristics ptevail in the Middle East. The modernisation process is faced with a gruwing powern calling for the return to Islamic values. These values have different effects on different nations. These are further complicated by the presence of widely differing social classes with opposing ideologies as to what constitutes the basis for national-ism: Arab unity or Islam.

It is important to note that Islam was politicised from its early days as the Islamic calendar started its first year when the Muslims left Mecca for Medina to become a political community. To be a Muslim is to

join this community that constitutes a society operating according to God's revelations to Prophet Mohammad. "Muslims society has a remarkable solidarity: the loyalty and cuhesion of its members are intense. A good Muslim is not one whose belicf conforms to a given pattern, but one whose commitment may be expressed in practical terms that conform to an accepted code." Wil-

fred Smith wrote in 1957.

The Abbassid dynasty ruled from Baghdad over a great empire. The spread of its political authority uver a vast geographical area led to eventual decentralised power structures and political units. Baghdad fell in the 13th century, and the empire came to its end. Then came the Ottoman (Turkish) rule which found in Islam, and in remaining religious, the key factor of survival as a political entity. World War I made it possible for Arab nationalists to demand independence from the Ottoman rule. But whenever Arab lands were "liberated", they were placed under foreign colonisation. and were made into small and weak states, depriving the Arabs of their promised unity. Had nationalism been allowed to mature peacefully and slowly without foreign intervention, its trends and character would have assumed a different form. Islam was criticised by the West as being backward and unable to cope with modern technology. The West failed to understand the powerful political weapon that Islam possessed. This, in part, led to the rise of Islamic fundamentalism in which there was a call for the return to the old teachings of Islam, in the face of the "modern"

powers. Al Afghani (who lived in Egypt 1871-1879) called for the unity of Muslims so they could build up strength against the European powers, He attack-ed the weak governments of the Muslim community, as they became exploited and weak. This can be seen as a clear moment of awakening to Islam as a political power and can be an indication of the arousal of militancy in Islam in the face of corrupt rulers and foreign influences. Pan-Islamism became the focus for the politicised Islam and called for all devout Muslims to adhere to the principles of Islam as a means of strength, unity and identity.

Rashid Rida (1865-1935) was a strong believer in Arab nationalism; he differentiated between the "Arab Muslim". Umma (nation) and the Muslim Turks. He spoke of the Arabs being responsible for the spread and glory of Islam. Sati Al Husri concentrated

GAZA

his efforts and intellectualism on the compatibility of Arab nationalism and Islam, in which the former would support and promote the latter. The language in which

Islam was revealed was Atabic, Islam provides the Arab society with its spiritual message that can transform it into a force for the progress towards Arab nationalism. It is important to mention that Islam was born as a worldtransforming religion and became embodied into the Arab societies of the Middle East, not in a religious capacity alone, hut as a way of life and a political expression of one's thoughts. "Islam is inseparable from Arab nationalism and it is the duty of all Arab nationalists to uphold and venerate it and to sanctify the memory of Prophet Mohammad and interest themselves in Islam." Constantin Zuraig, a Christian Arab nationalist wrote in 1939 in Beirut.

Increased nationalism was further expressed by many non-Muslim thinkers, writers and intellectuals. Khalil Iskandar Qubrusi, a Christian Orthodox, wrote that primitive Christianity which had originated in the East was corrupted by the Euro-peans who were seeking to dominate the Eastern Christians, "Arab Christians need to embrace Islam, so as to

return to their pure original
Christianity" he concluded.
Today, the Arab World is
governed by different political
systems. Where political
parties are absent, Islam takes the form of the "unofficial" people's party. It becomes the forum for expression of the nation's demands. In Jordan, the Islamic muvement won a large share of the seats in Parliament during the Nov. 1989 elections. The Jordanian elections for the professional unions are run on secular and Islamic grounds, with a clear tilt of power for the latter during the last ten years. Further classical examples can be drawn from Algeria, Sudan

and many others. In summation, the words of Roy Muttahedeh at Harvard University provide the best analysis for present day Islam: 'Most Muslims came to see the utility of a clear distinction between the actual and the ideal. They were willing to live with their actual, very imperfect governments as long as they could cherish their ideal. This ideal preserved a sense of community that could survive repeated changes of governments and conflicts of interest among Muslims. This sense of community even in the face of the terrifically powerful and divisive force of modern nationalism, is very much alive today."

Flirting with the fiscal sin

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

WHEN THE Jordanian government indulged in foreign borrowing for the past ten years or more, politicians used to calm down those scared of an approaching crisis and assure them that our Arah brothren in particular. and our international friends in general, would nevet allow a small, friendly country like Jardan to reach the point of crisis. At the last moment they claimed, massive foreign and Arab aid will flow to the country from Arab oil producing countries, the Americans, and others. A simple tour in the Gulf capitals will do the trick.

When the crisis did come. late in 1988, none of the above could care less. We found no alternative but to submit to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) demands. Politicians and decision-makers were ohviously dead wrong, but the entire people of Jordan paid the price of that fatal mistake and ure still paying.

After this bitter experi-

ence, we still have some people who dare tell us that foreign grants are definitely coming, irrespective of our economic behaviour. If we ahandon the economic adjustment programme, they theorise. American, European, and Japanese financial assistance will not be affected, because their assistance is based on political considerations

Lately we were told that we should not be afraid of increasing the salaries of the civil servants, or widening the deficit, because the IMF is committed to reschedule all our debts and to finance our foreign exchange gap. In other words, we can spend generously to satisfy out social needs because the funds will be secured whether the deficit is small or big.

If we deprive the government employees of a desirable salary increase, we only

spare the IMF's money. Such false and irresponsible talk may find some happy audience because it rids some of the guilt of committing their sin. But does this argument make sense? Why should the donors give us their tax-payers' money. irrespective of our financial behaviour and why should they try to help us if we are not ready to help ourselves! Why should the IMF cover the gap in our foreign exchange hudget if we do not adhere to our own commitments under the programme. including reduction of budget deficit on yearly hasis? Is the IMF so naive?

The fiscal target for 1993 was a reduction of deficit to the level of 6.4 per cent of the GDP. Huwecer, facourable circumstances made it possible to bean the target and reduce the deficit to 6.2 per cent of the GDP. As a reward for this achievement, the reduction of the deficit in 1994 was targetted at 5.2 per cent of GDP. Jordan's effort for the year 1994 is to be I per cent of GDP -- which is, by no means, a tough job to accomplish.

The draft budget of 1994 was based on satisfying this requirement. According to other ways of reading the budget, the deficit may be a little bit higher and the Minisrry of Finance should exert extra efforts during the year to make the actual performance better than the budget and the deficit no more than

5.2 per cent of the GDP. It is on this background that the idea of yet another salary increase came, which, if implemented, will raise the deficit to 7.7 per cent of the GDP. One would be unrealistic to expect the IMF to go to Paris Club next month to put pressure on creditors to postpone or reduce their debts in order to enable the givernment of Jordan to enhance the life style of its ministers and improve the standard of living of us infloted hodies of civilian and military personnel, who got their last increase secenmonths ago, and to boust the popularity of the government, the deputies, and some press commentators,

Unfortunately, the government issued the orning signal and nanecessarile created evpeciations, but the damage that not happen set and it should told a way out of this mistake. Both the governs ment and the Parliament should act responsibly.

Many Gazans sceptic negotiations are solution

By Samia Nakhoul Reuter

GAZA - PLO leader Yasser Arafat's plans to take over from Israel occupation in the Gaza Strip are of no consequence to Muslim militants. They answer to a higher authority -

Under a September peace deal, Israel will eventually redeploy in the Gaza Strip and abandon densely populated areas to Mr. Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation. But Muslim activists expect little solace from the changing of the guard.

"The main issue is not to give us more food and more money. We need an identity and the PLO cannot provide us with an identity, Islam is the solution, said Moussa Morei.

"The PLO teadership has lost touch with people here. They live in another planet. They have a tavish lifestyle, said Magdi Akcel, a Muslim

"They drive Mercedes cars. They eat with forks and knives. They forgot the life of poverty that exists here. I worry about the shock of the people from this leadership which is coming

here," he said. Hamas, the PLO's leading rival in an uprising against Israel that erupted six years ago, is the strongest and militarily most active and popular Islamic group in the strip. Only the most religious Muslims, free of crime and corruption. are allowed membership in Hamas

Hamas opposes the peace deal and is devoted to destroying the Jewish state. It receives funds from abroad, including Iran, according to both Palestinian and Istaeli sources.

With the misery, poverty and appression Islam takes on an added importance in peo-

Muslim militant groups have

already established a network

of social, educational, health, economic and judicial societies to ease life for a people that have suffered through nearly 27 years of occupation.

With an eye to the future, Islamic societies run about 23 kindetgattens actoss Gaza, educating 8,000 children, most of them sons of marryrs or prisoners. Children as young as six are taught to memorise the

Muslim scholars known as "reconciliators" act as judges in the absence of civil courts. They rule in family fucds, crimes, robberies, divotce, inheritance, adultery and property ownership issues, their rulings are based on Islamic Sharia law.

In cases of homicide, the killer will pay blood money to the parents of the victim. The

sum should be the equivalent to the price of 100 camels according to the Sharia." said Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Kujok, a prominent reconciliator. He said the amount is de-

lars. In a recent case of mutder, the killer had to pay JD 48,000 (nearly \$71,000) to the victim's family. "With casualties, we count

cided by a committee of scho-

the nunther of blows and injuries of the victim, "Mr. Kujok said. "The amount of money will depend on how serious the blows are. Every stroke has its own price." In the absence of police au-

thority, militants enforce the decisions of the reconciliators. "We try to stop violatinns and lawlessness through persussiun and intimidation, by

making people return to their conscience, Mr. Kujok said, Dotted with ramshnekle refugee comms. Gaza is home to the street Palestinian observance of talam.

Gaza wo en wear the Islamic code of dress --- a headscarf and long dress. Alcohol is not openly un sale.

Men and women must not be seen together unless related. At the Islamic university, men and women attend separate campuses and take turns in laburatories.

Musques and religious contests seem to uffer the only entettainment for young people. An advertisement at the university announced a contest in memorising The Koran with a prize of JD 1,000 (about \$1,400).

The university has a great rule in Islamicising the society. Its philosophy is to create a Muslim individual whn will then make an Islamic family. This will help create an Islamic society through legitimate means," university official Ahmad Al Saraati told Reu-

M. KAHIL

"When you achieve an Islamic society you will naturally have stronger influence in unions and institutions. Then eventually you can attain pow-er and rule," he added.

By providing social services. Islamic societies win the hearts of many Gazans,

"The Islamists live our suffering and endutance. They go down to the street. They share our agonies and miseties." said Jamil Abdallah, 37, of Jahalya refugee camp.

THAT the Source he that apart sor Assimal manager was a re-member Russell, tool member 11 decided masky who speak mental who should be a supported by the could make up to the world make the could be a supported by the could make up to the could make now lattle ones one new wars seer but me come trains to your may be serting at Northern Ire ger the latest round c per me massimis in inholes has site (che

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officials in Gaza any operation surface by a far denoused. Alafat denounced in the killed an Ingreement.

The lack of jobs will force

Dependence on money they

more penple to leave in search

of work, most of them going to

send home is expected to grow.

as is the laundering of mnney

from an increasing flow of Col-

ombian cocaine through the

South America

Most of South America's

civilian governments will push

ahead with free-market reform

new presidents in December

and Brazil. Colombia and Uru-

guay will do so this year.

Venezuela and Chile chose

Chile, Argentina and Vene-

zuela, whose economic prog-

ramme are furthest along,

probably will seek to join the

United States, Canada and

Mexico in the North American

Free Trade Agreement.

Washington has said those

three are the leading candi-

Peru, Colombia, Paraguay,

Ecuador and Bolivia plan to

sell state-run companies as part

of their reform programmes.

also is its biggest question

mark. Congress will vote on a

government plan to lower in-

flation, now more than 35 per

cent a month. But with elec-

tions due in October, legisla-

Brazil, the continent's giant,

the United States.

Caribhean.

in 1994.

What to expect in 1994 from a world in turmoil

The Associated Press

NOW THAT the Soviet empire has fallen apart, some of its parts are falling part. More political turmoil may lic ahead for mother Russia, too. given the sudden rise of Vladimir Zhirinovsky, who speaks of nuking Russia's neighbours and taking Alaska back.
Although the dreaded big

war never came, the belligerents of the world make up for it by starting little ones.

None of the new wars seem to end, but the combatants in some old ones may be getting nred. Steps toward peace are being taken in Northern Ire-land, where the latest round of fighting among Protestants and Roman Catholics has stretched over 25 years, and between Israelis and Palesrinians, who have been at it twice as long.

Commercially, the world is getting together: Europe keeps moving toward union, however slowly; the United States. Canada and Mexico embarked on a free trade agreement Jan. and the 117 members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade finally struck a deal after seven years of maneouvre and harangue.

A year ago, it appeared that the United Nations could become a global peacekeeper and stop at least the worst of the violence. That did not happen. and only a gbost of the hope

The little wars are fought over territory, religion, ethnicity anything that has festered in enough bearts for enough generations.

While the vengeful kill each other, the merciful do their best to heal the wounded, feed the living and comfort the displaced. Thus, as another year begins, the human race contiques on its contradictory way.

The Associated Press asked correspondents around the world for their assessements of what 1994 may hold. Here are their reports:

-United Nations

Hopes that the United Nations would be the centrepiece of a new world order were dashed in 1993. Its dim prospects for this year include re-

After great expectations at masses. the end of the cold war, the in Afghanistan, no end is in United Nations has fallen on hard times. While it completed a major mision successfuly in Cambodia last year, there were setbacks or failures in Somalia. Bosnia, Haiti and Angola,

The cash shortage got worse and there is little chance of improvement. Charges of waste and mismanagement continue to be levelled at the bureaoctacy.

The United Nations renaissance remains in question. 'Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said in his annual report to the General

Assembly in September. U.N. forces ofteo are thrust into conflicts where major powers "are not willing to venture themselves and are reluctant to make the hard choices posed by a new era of chal-

lenges to peace," he said. The great disappointment was Somalia, where 30,000 peacekeepers were engaged in aggressive disarmament of factions and clashes with the

forces of warlord Mobammad Farah Aideed. After 18 U.S. soldiers were killed in one battle, the United ates announced that it would pull out by March 31, 1994.

France, Belgium, Germany and Italy later said they also would withdraw. At year's end, the United Nations was desperately seeking replace-After Somalia, the United States was wary of U.N. onder-

takings. When 150 Haitian thugs fired in the air and chanted slogans, a U.S. ship carrying a small contingent of soldiers and police trainers sailed away from Port-au-Prince harbour without dock-

The U.N. mission to retrain police and soldiers and build public works projects never got off the ground.

In Bosnia, U.N. peacekeepers and relief workers continue to feed the hungry, but have not been able to halt Serb or Croat agg.ession, U.N. and

NATO forces have not used force to stop the fighting. although it was authorised, and an international peace plan collapsed.

Civil war returned to Angola. where only 74 U.N. peacekeepers remained. A larger U.N. force ws unable to disarm combatants.

About 74,000 peacekecpers. police and others were deployed in 15 missions at year's end. Arrears by member states are about \$1.5 billion.

In his first U.N. address, in September. President Clinton said peacekeeping demands have greatly exceeded U.N. resources and called for restraint in undertaking new mis-

"The United Nations simply cannot become engaged in every one of the world's conflict." he said. "If the American people are to say 'yes' to U.N. peacekeeping the United Nations must know when to say 'no'.

Asian subcontinent

The Asian subcontinent is enjoying a period of political stability that may let its feuding nations work on their endemic problems of poverty, ethics conflict and population

India iand Pakistan are starting talks on Kashmir, the disputed province with a Muslim majority that has caused two of their three wars since 1947. About 7.500 people have been killed in Kashmir since Muslim guerrillas began a separatist war against Hindu-dominanted India four years ago.

The United States would like to see the negotiations expanded to include nuclear non-proliferation.

Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao of India leads a fragile minority government, but gained strength in state elections at the end of the year, stifling much of the dissent against his leadership.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan, who returned to power in October, has the most stable government since democracy was restored in 1988.

To maintain its new stability. the subcontinent — home to the poorest one-fifth of treats on peacekeeping and a 1. humanity - must begin show-

> sight to fighting among rival more lives in two years than did the 13-year civil war against a Soviet-backed gov-

> Sri Lanka passed a painful test of its democracy in 1993 when its president was assassinated by a suicide bomber. Although the transition was smooth, the new government seems less willing to talk with leaders of an 11-year rebellion among the Tamil minority.

Democracy seems to have taken root in Nepal and Bangladesh, but both countries are desperately poor.

South Pacific

More than two centuries after the first white men arrived. Australia is coming to grips with its debt to aboriginal

In 1994, parliament will adopt legislation proposed by Prime Minister Paul Keating that recognises aboriginal land claims, but there may be prolonged legal challenges.

Most of the land is desert outback held by federal and state government. Mr. Keating has promised a fund to buy back privately held land, and a "social justice" reform package of health, education and job-creation programmes for aborigines, most of whom now live in the cities.

With the economy barely emerging from years of recession, the opposition will argue that the country cannot afford the expense.

New Zealand enters 1994 fresh from a November parliamentary election that cut the conservative National Party's majority to a single seat. That will frustrate efforts to reform what has become one of the democratic world's most socialised economies, with cradle-to-grave benefits.

Because New Zealand still bolds to its anti-nuclear position, its military relationship with the United States remains

Pregnant woman shot in Gaza

(Continued from page 1)

Fatch officials in Gaza on Sunday said they had issued no orders for any operation and my involvement by a Fatch activist was unficensed.

Mr. Arafat denounced Fateh activists who killed an Israeli settler after the September Peace agreement.

Meanwhile several thousand settlers in the Jordan Valley went on strike against the threatened "isolation" of one

of their settlements. Police said cars and tyres were set ablaze blocking the main road for more than an hour. Settlers demonstrated at the Arab village of Ouja, 10 kilometres north of Jericho, which would fall inside the autonomous zone under a

document being discussed by the PLO and Israel. Despite official denials settlers fear that would cut off Naama settlement.

dififcult, but full diplomatic strains. relations will be restored in

Papua New Guina has hattled a secessionist movement in Bougainville for five years. Past attempts at negotiation failed, and a new initiative this vear is unlikely.

Prime Minister Sitiveni Pabuka of Fiji wants to revise the constitution to remove restrictions on the political rights of ethnic Indians, who make

up nearly half the population. After Mr. Rabuka led two coups in 1987, a new constitution was adopted that guaranteed rule by indigenous Fijians. Now he seeks to change

In December, several

cabinet members defected to

the opposition, forcing new

elections scheduled for Febru-

Canada

Prime Minister Jean Chretien, elected in October, says he is going to put Quebec separatism on the back burner and turn Canada's amention to

the economy. Over a décade. Ottawa has expended endless energy trying to deal with the aspirations of the huge Frenchspeaking province, to no avail.

With separatist sentiment on the rise. 54 Quebec nationalists providing the main House of Commons opposition and provincial elections approaching. the issue is not going to go away despite Mr. Chretien's wishful thoughts.

French-speakers, about 85 per cent of Quebec's 6.9 million people, have long felt like second-class citizens in a largely English-speaking country. Many fear for their French language and culture.

Quebec has yet to sign the 1982 constitution, and there have been two unsuccessful attempts at amending it to appease the province.

The separatist Bloc Quebecois won 54 of Quebec's 75 seats in the commons in October. If nationalists win the provincial elections in 1994, they promise a referendum on sovereignty within a year.

Mr. Chretien is right. however, when he says he has bigger fish to fry.

Unemployment is still affece It per cent, the economy is struggling through a long-recession and the budget deficit is growing. Social services such and the national health programme are on the edge of

If that is not enough, half a million Indians want self-rule: the Atlantic fishing industry is collapsing; environmentalists worry about chemicals, loggers and wolves: and the western province feel ignored.

Africa

War, poverty and disease will continue bringing misery to millions in Africa, but there is hope in a few trouble spots like South Africa, Angola and Mozambique.

Somalia is a question. U.S. troops, scheduled to withdraw by March 31, are the backbone of the U.N. force meant to end two years of civil war and famine. Despite peace talks that have included warlord Aideed, observers fear clan fighting will resume as soon as the foreign troops leave.

South Africa holds its first election with universal suffrage in 1994, and the black majority is likely to make Neslson Mandela president. With its wealth and development, the new South Africa may serve as a sorely needed economic engine for the continent.

In Malawi, one of Africa's last old-style dictatorships seems on the way out, a victim of the democratic movement in

Africa that began in 1990. A cease-fire seems likely in Angola, where civil war has been killing 1,000 people a day by U.N. estimates, and in Mozambique, guerrillas have begun disarming under a U.N. arranged peace plan. But weapons from these waning conflicts are being rapidly smuggled throughout Africa.

Nigeria, the continent's most populous country, enters the year with a new military dictator, Gcn. Sani Abacha, who has promised democracy while dismantling such democratic institutions as the National

Assembly. There is new tribal conflict in Burundi, and in Sudan. southerners enter their 11th year of fighting the Muslimdominated north.

Much of Africa remains rife with tribal tension, poverty and corruption. There are few signs that democracy will make more than limited progress. although governments seem to be giving greater sway to free

AIDS continues to spread. and malaria is a growing threat because of drug-resistant

The Middle East

Middle East peace negotiations will move forward in 1994. Syria, Lebanon and Jordan probably will join the Palestinians in making peace with Israel.

Transition from war to peace will generate problems that could be most evident in Syria. President Hafez Assad's minority Alawite regime will have to tread a precarious path towards political and economic reforms after decades of repressive rule.

Rejectionists on both sides will continue trying to sabotage the U.S.-sponsored peace pro-

Yasser Arafut, leader of the Palestine Liheration Organisation, may have to crack down hard on radicals and Muslim fundamentalists who consider the peace accord a betrayal.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rahin will face problems from Israelis who oppose giving up Arab lands occupied in the 1967 war. The momentum of the Sept.

13 agreement hetween the PLO and Israel is unlikely to be stopped, however. The Americans hold Israel's purse strings and the collapse of the Soviet Union deprived hardline Arah states of their main support.

Mr. Assad was angered hv Mr. Arafat's separate deal with Israel and has played hard to get. But he ultimately has little choice but to make peace as his Soviet-supplied arsenal deteriorates and his need for eco-

nomic aid grows. Lebanon and Jordan are sure to follow once Mr. Assad agrees, but turmoil will not disappear overnight, particularly on the region's perip-

hery. Iran continues to rearm and faces growing internal unrest unless it can revive its economy, a task made more difficult by falling oil revenues. Tehran's relations with Wasbington are likely to get worse as domestic problems increase.

The United Nations might ease trade sanctions on Iraq if Saddam (blussein behaves, but leaving him in power will keep fear of his regional ambitions

Violence by Islamic extremists will continue in Egypt and several others in the region will have to start addressing economic and political inequalities they have long ignored.

The Far East

The Far East begins 1994 under the shadow of North Korea's refusal to comply with international nuclear controls.

Diplomatic negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang may decide whether East Asia embarks on a fullscale arms race or joins the global trend towards disarmament.

Despite the new tension on the peninsula, South Korea continues its own rapid transi-

rion to a civilian democracy. China's rapid growth will continue, but its long-term economic health depends on painful reforms the government has promised to introduce. These include cutting subsidies to money-losing factories and remodelling the

banking system. In just three years. China regains control over Hong Kong. The British colony anticipates a bumpy year as Beijing and London argue over how much democracy can be introduced. A showdown could unsettle the economy. which has enjoyed the fruits of

China's boom. Taiwan's transformation from near-dictatorship to multiparty democracy continues as the island pushes for equal international status with China despite Beijing's efforts to isolate it diplomatically.

The new democratically elected government of Cambodia, still battling communist Khmer Rouge rebels, will start rebuilding its economy. Victnam hopes full diplomatic relanons will follow Washington's easing of the U.S. economic embargo.

Japan enters 1994 with its leadership divided over political reforms, economic policy and the government's decision to lift its ban on rice imports. With the economy stuck in

what may he the longest slump since World War II. pressure will build for more aggressive measures to stimulate investment and consumer spending. Former Soviet Union

Armed with a new constitution, President Boris Yeltsin will try to fend off radical nationalists and keep Russia moving towards free market in

He faces major obstucles: A

1994. It will not be easy.

ment, regional demands for more autonomy and public anger over economic hardship. rising crime and loss of the empire. One of Russia's best-known astrologers. Glnbu. hus pre-

powerful faction of extreme

nationalists in the new parlia-

dicted a coup attempt in spring. Another claims Mr. Yeltsin will fall seriously ill. Many sober-minded Russians who are not superstitious also worry about such things. Even without cataclysm. reformers may spend 1994 on the

which gives Mr. Yeltsin sweeping power to issue decrees. make foreign policy and run the economy. Radical nationalists, led by Vladimir Zhirinovsky, will push for policy changes and cabinet seats. But Mr. Yeltsin can resist because the constitution gives him the power to nominate all top officials and

defensive. Their strongest re-

doubt is the new constitution.

for prime minister. From Mr. Yeltsin's viewpoint, the charter's main defect is that it does not clearly define

to dissolve parliament if it re-

peatedly rejects his nominees

regional and federal authority. Tatarstan, Chechnya, Yakutin and other regions are demanding greater control nver taxes, natural resources, and industry. Unless Mr. Yeltsin can make a deal with regional leaders. Russia runs the risk of disintegrating into independent republics, as the Soviet

Union did. Russians have a long history of oppression under czars and commissars, and their patience is great. But the results of the Dec. 12 election that sent ultranationalists to parliament indicate many citizens are upset by failure of free-market reforms to improve their lives. Mr. Yeltsin's greatest task in

1994, and greatest challenge, is to change that outlook. Other former Soviet republics also face economic turmoil. Ukraine and Georgia are struggling with severe energy shortages and high unemployment. Armenia and Azerbaiian have been wracked by six years of war over Nagomo-

Karabakh, with no end in sigh. If there is a birght spot, it is the small Bultic states of Lativa, Lithuania and Estonia, always the most Western oriented of the Soviet repulslics. They are moving quickly toward market economies and have stablished relatively stable currencies. For them.

1994 could be a year of revival. Eastern Europe

Four years after the demise of communism, the emerging democracies of Eastern

Europe are stil emerging. All face another arduous year, stymied by a stagnant world economy, the Yugoslav conflict and popular disenchantment with western-style

economics. Fallout from the Balkan war will continue to threaten economic and political stability. The biggest fear is that the

fighting will spread. There are a few bright spots. Painful reforms are paying off in Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, which will continue doing better thun their eastern neighbours. They seem ready for genuine growth if a world recovery starts, the Yugoslav situation does not get worse and Western Europe

drops its trade bariers. Although Hungary has been an island of political stability. trouble may lie ahead. With the death of Prime Minister Jozsef Antall, and his party's popularity plunging, parlia-ment could be splintered by an

electoral free-for-all. The only real hope for economic recovery in the former Yugoslavia lies in Slovenia, the northernmost region, which has turned to its Western Europe neighbours.

Expect lirtle progress in Bulgaria or Romania, where political infighting and fear of labour unrest have sapped the will for reform. Even if they do get serious about reform, the two countries have lost billions in trade because of U.N. sanctions on neighbouring Serhia.

Slovakia has been in trouble since its divorce a year ago from the richer Czech Republic. Albania could show the fastest rate of growth in the region, but will remain the poorest country in Europe.

Western Europe

For Western Europe, the economy will remain the overriding concern in 1994. In the dozen nations of the

European Community, unemployment is expected to top II per cent. meaning 18 million people will be out of work. Germany's economy, largest in the region, shows signs of shaking off its worst recession since World War II, but unem-

ployment is expected to con-

To open up more jobs. EC members are under pressure to reduce costs per worker so hiring will be less expensive for employers. A key target will be the expensive social security network of disability, retirement, health and other benefits that have marked the European welfare state for de-

cades. Westen European nations also seek ways to draw their eastern neighbours closer. The 16-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) will hold a summit in early January - President Clinton's first to decide on requests for membership from Poland. Hungary and other former foes.

NATO prohably will approve an American plan called partnership for peace. which would let eastern nations participate in joint military exercises, crisis management and peacekeeping without granting full membership. They would be required to share information ahout defence hudget and provide

troops if asked. EC members will start im-plementing their new treaty on European Union, which calls for a common foreign policy. joint central hank and single

currency by 1999. On Jan. 1, the 12 nations took a step towards a monetary merger by opening the European Monetary Institute, the forerunner of a central bank. Common foreign and defence policies are expected to lag behind, as illustrated by Western Europe's failure to hait the war in the former Yugoslavia.

Mexico and Central America

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) comes just in time for Mexico's leaders, who hope for an economic boost before the presidential election next year.

In his term as president. Carlos Salinas de Gortari made an economic revolution with free-market reforms capped by NAFTA, the accord with the United States and Canada that took effect Jan. 1. Political reforms have come

more slowly. Mr. Salinas followed tradition - hy choosing tionary Party's candidate. Luis". Donaldo Colosio, who is almost certain to win and extend the Party's 65-year monopoly on national power for six more years.

Polls indicate the party would win a fair election, but opposition leaders believe they

have little chance of finding out. In Yucatan state elections Nov. 28, the governor resigned to protest intereference from

Mexico City and observers reported clear signs of fraud. Dramatic reforms are taking place in Central America as it emerges from decades of civil

war and dictatorship. El Salvador will hold its first peacetime election for a civilian president since the 1930s as part of an agreement ending its civil war. Panamanians will vote for the first time since the U.S. invasion that ousted dictator Manuel Noriega in 1989. In November, Hoduras achieved a record fourth consecutive presidential vnte with-

out a coup or war. Old hatreds still haunt the area. however. Rightist death squads stalk El Salvadnr and Guatemala. Nicaragua's civil war ended in 1990. But its politicians have yet to agree on

how to share power peacefully. Guatemala overcame a presidential attempt to seize dictatorial powers in 1992, but U.N. observers say human rights ahuses continue

Caribbean

In 1994, expect more political turmoil in Haiti and a continued ecnnomic decline in Cuba.

The outside world appears inclined to resolve the Haitian impasse with or without Jean Bertrand Aristide, the elected president overthrnwn hy the military in 1991.

Unfortunately, without Aristide it's going to leave the place in the same old mess." said Sociologist Anthony Maiungot, who edits Hemisphere magazine for the Latin-Caribbean Centre of Flordia International University.

"It will mean more confusion and adversity." said Aaron Ramos, director of the Institute of Caribbean at the University of Puerto Rico.

Few are willing to predict the fate of Fidel Castro, who has ruled Cuba for 35 years. even after four years of economic suffering caused by the collapse of his Soviet-bloc sponsors

Mr. Maingot sees the question as, "what is threshold of pain of that society?"

the ruling institutional Revolutional the and others believe the North American Free Trade Agreement will further isolate Mr. Castro from Mexico. which has been his main ally in the hemisphere.

Tourism in the Caribbean

should have a banner year, but

that will not offset job losses

from a troubled regional eco-

tors are expected to resist spending cuts and tax increases. An early favourite for the presidency is labouir leader Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, whose belief in state control of some sectors raises doubts ab-

will go in Brazil. The economic future of Venezuela under the Rafael Caldera, the new president, also is unclear. Mr. Caldera ran a populist campaign and has suggested he might try to change parts of a free-market reform programme began in

out how far economic reform

In Colombia, the death of drug lord Pablo Escobar could reduce terrorism, but the growth of the rival Cali cartel ensures that cocaine will continue to flow. Violeoce by leftist guerrillas

m Peru may decline because of

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the capture of top leaders and splits within the insurgent ranks. President Carlos Menem of Argentina is expected to continue his economic reforms. which have produced the region's highest growth rates for two years, and run for a second

term in 1995.

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Pakistan's Bhutto curbs |German Bundesbank hints at new interest rate cuts central bank autonomy

ment, lack of control and I left

tan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, in one of her first pieces of legislation since taking office in October, has curbed a ground-breaking. three-month-old bill that gave unprecedented independence to the central bank.

"This begs the question of autonomy. Deputy Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan Ashraf Janua told Reuters by telephone Sunday, "the ministry of finance and the government will again have the upper

President Farony Leghari Friday passed an ordinance sent to him by the cabinet. signing away the central bank's power to refuse overdrafts to the covernment and to set monetary policy.

The new ordinance withdraws the central bank's powers to fix government limits on borrowing, hobbles its ability to act independently of the government, reduces the term of office of the governor and returns to the government the privilege to nominate direc-

"this makes fiscal policy vulnerable," Mr. Junjua said, The ordinance was passed in October under caretaker Prime Minister Moeen Qureshi, a former World Bank vice-president. He suid his main aim was to restrict the access of the federal and provincial governments to borrow and cut the budget's deficit. "There was excessive borrowing by the federal govern-

that where I was prepared to establish financial controls and stick by them, a political government may not be prepared to do that and may force the state hank to linance those credits." Mr. Oureshi said in a New York interview published in Sunday's local Dawn news-

The new ordinance requires the bank to consult the government, robbing it of the power to overrule the government that was enshrined in Mr. Oureshi's ordinance.

'We are now two unequals," Mr. Janjua said, "For three months we had talked to them (the government) as cauals.

Latest figures show the government is close to a 1993/44 (July June) hudget deficit target of 5.4 per cent of gross domestic product set by the International Monetary Fund.

The government is only about 2.0 hillion rupees (566 million) off its first six-month target of 46 billian rupees IS1.5 hillion). Mr. Janjua said.

The deficit soared to 7.5 per cent in 1992/993, exceeding targets by 1.5 per cent as the government borrowed heavily to make up for profligate spending and flagging tax revenues.

This is a tracedy," economist Hafeez Pasha, commerce minister in Mr. Ourcsbi's cabinet, said of the ordinance. "The desire is stil there to retain control and that's the

The ordinance returns the

BONN (R) - The Bundenbank, citing progress in controlling the growth of money term of the governor from five

supply and its fight against inflation, has hinted that it may have room to consider new cuts in its leading interest rates.

Bundesbank President Hans Ttetmeyer told the Welt Am Sonntag newspaper that inflation could fall below three per cent in 1994.

Inflation in the former West Germany rose 0.1 per cent in December to stand at 3.6 per cent above year-carlier levels. according to earlier government data.

"We expect to achieve a better result in 1994," Mr. Tietmeyer said. "We do not rule out that in the course of the year we will also have a two in front of the decimal point.

"Our policy also includes the possibility of further interest rate cuts in the event that the expansion of money supply weakens." he added

The Bundesbank narrowed its target range for M3 money supply growth in 1944 to foursix per cent, despite exceeding the target for the past two years. Money supply growth is a leading indicator that measures future inflationary trends

"We expect it to level out during the course of the year. We will then see which interest

KUWAIT (R) - Kuwaiti in-

vestment firms reared in the

cosy world of state fund man-

agement plan an ambitious

rate level is appropriate." Mr. Ticlmever said.

Under pressure to show progress on the economy ahead of this year's 19 local. state, national and European Parliament elections, politicians renewed efforts to persuade the central hank to move faster to lower rates.

Friedhelm Ost, economic expert from Chancellar Helmut Koltl's Christian Democrats (CDU), said that in the face of soaning unemployment the Bundesbank should underpin budding economic growth

by lowering key rates.
"The inflation rate will fall. The Bundesbank's manoeuvring room in monetary policy is increasing so that the leading interest rates could be significantly lowered again." he said. The Bundesbank's discount

rate, its short-term lending rate, is currently 5.75 per cent. and the Lombard emergency lending rate is 6.75 per cent. Mr. Tietmeyer, who took

the helm of the central bank in October, said the Bundeshank had significantly lowered rates step-by-step last year, setting the stage for a recovery.

The decision is no longer primarily one of monetary policy, but rather it rests with the companies themselves, in wage contracts and labour costs, as well as in the realm of public finance." he said.

"We must achieve the con-

solidation of public finances. including the social sceurity system, by limiting spending." he added.

The Bundesbank's concerns about the state of public finances were echoed by Mr. Kohl's junior coalition mcmber Free Democrats (FDP). who see an enormous gap in the 1994 budget.

"I would not want to use the word chaos, but financial policy is not very convincing at the moment." FDP ecinomic spokesman Otto Lambsdorff told German television.

The OECD has said that the German economy was still suffering from recession but should recover gradually from the second half of 1994.

The main recessionary forces of the last two years -rising labour costs, weak export markets and high interest and exchange rates - continue to exert a restraining influence on the economy," the Parisbased economic forum said in a report.

The economy is also having to adapt to a sharp tightening

of fiscal policy. Nevertheless the current moderation of wage and price pressures and the ongoing easing of monetary conditions are producing the basis for a grudual pick-up of growth from the second half of 1994 on." it

Kuwait targets lucrative personal investment

It predicted overall expansion in gross domestic product (GDP) of II.8 per cent, with growth of II.4 per cent in west German and n.5 per cent in the smaller east German eco-

The economic upturn would be accompanied by lower inflation due to slowing wage growth, although higher taxes and public charges would exert upward pressure on prices in the near term. Inflation would slow to the central bank's two per cent target by 1995.

Consumption is likely to decline sharply for another year or so due to unemployment and declining real income. But this would improve once employment began to recover in

"From mid-1994 onwards. overall inflation should start to decline rapidly and employment to recover, thereby allowing real incomes and consumption to increase." it said.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Develop-ment (OECD) predicted more cuts in German interest rates. which it said would lay the basis for a further easine throughout Europe, German short-term rates were seen falling below four per cent by the end of 1994.

It said the overshooting of a 6.5 per cent target ceiling for

ment of state reserves by other

state investment companies do

not help the image of the

Kuwaiti institutions pursuing

from Kuwaiti firms because of

their 1980s performance and

personal funds.

M3 money supply growth ka year was largely due to hear public sector horrowing ar high vields for the short-ten

investments which are include Exports are expected grow univ half as fast as ma kets this year due to

lugged impact of past compen tive losses. Recovery would not gammomentum until 1995, when these depressing influences of exports should wane. It predicted overall German econo mic growth that year of two is

2.5 per cent. "The main factor in stabili ing competitiveness will b continuing significant wage moderation, while profits should also be enhanced by the cumulative effects of labour shedding.

Government moves for fiscal consolidation should have positive effect in the long term by reducing policy uncertainty and increasing investor confi-

The main risk to the forecast lav in the level of private consumption, which the OECD said might not recover as quickly as expected due to continued uncertainty on the labour market.

Further appreciation of the mark might also cause a slower upturn in exports and invest ment than predicted.

did not bother to inform them

selves about the competitive

"Most our investors have

money with us as well as with

ment have been growing every

returns now available.

OECD expects weak Japan economic growth

TOKYO (R) - A rise in the ven shook the weak Japanese economy in 1993 and recovery prospects are poor as the currency's strength hits exports and consumption, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has said.

"Any recovery in economic activity is expected to be slow. with 1994 likely to register, at best, very weak growth." the Paris-based think-tunk suid in its twice-yearly outlook.

The OECD said growth in gross domestic product IGDP) - the size of the economy could be well under one per cent in 1994 and expansion two per cent was unlikely until 1995.

Corporate profits have fallen and the uncertain employment outlook may continue to weaken consumer spending in 1994, the economic forum for 24 top industrialised nations said.

With exports and investment likely to remain depressed, and the stock-adjustment process yet to be completed. the forecs acting in favour of recovery are rather weak," it

Japan's current account halance of payments surplus should narrow slowly to around three per cent of GDP in 1994 and 1995, compared with three to four per cent

The OECD said it would be particularly difficult for Japan to break out of the current deflationary trend if firms start laving off workers. Companies are trying to hold on to workers through salary cuts and the relocation of employees, with

help from governent subsidies. Steps towards deregulating for the hanking sector in providing financial help and more credit may help bring the re-

cession to an end. These moves could be reinforced when parliament passes a package of tax reforms

Deregulation is likely to improve market access for foreien goods but is not expected to make to have an immediate impact on Japan's econcomic growth or trade, the OECD

Oman expects \$782 m deficit in '94

government.

pects a deficit of 301 million revenues, the official Omani News Agency reported here

are projected at 1.73 billion riyals (\$4.49 billion) against 1.71 billion riyals (\$4.45 billion) in 1993, the agency said, quoting official figures.

expected to reach 2.03 billion riyals (\$5.28 billion), against 2.26 billion riyals (about \$5.87 billion), last year, with defence and security outlays accounting

jected a \$1.14 billion deficit against \$790 million in 1992. with last year's higher figure linked to lower oil revenues.

board without reference to the move into a personal invest-

MUSCAT (AFP) - Oman exriyals (about \$782 million) in 1994 or 17.4 per cent of its

to three years and empowers

the government in appoint a

new head of the bank within

180 days from the signing of

State Bank governor Mohammad Yaqub, whose

outspokenness on fiscal and

monetary problems has won

widespread publicity in his

Mr. Pasha said the longer

three months in office, de-

term of office and wider pow-

ers granted to the governor

under Mr. Oureshi's ordinance

were probably the strongest

in an interview she did not

regard the new-found auton-

omy of the bank as a signal for

confrontation with the govern-

autonomous in South Asia."

Finance Secretary Oazi Ali-

mullah told a local newspaper.

to assert itself, for the first time

in many years bouncing che-

ques presented by several of

the four provincial govern-

The ordinance had resorted

to the bank the power to

change reserve requirements

and to set liquidity ratios that

were removed during national-

lisation policies in the 1971s.

on state borrowing and to

coordinate with the govern-

ment whiel monetary policy

could be approved by the

It had been able to set limits

ments." Mr. Janjua said.

The bank had already begun

"The bank is still the most

Mr. Yaguh said last smonth

section of the legislation.

the ordinance.

clined to comment.

Simbley. In the 1994 budget revenues

Oil revenues were estimated t 1.31 billion rivals (\$3.4 billion) or 76 per cent of total receipts.

Expenditures for 1994 were

for 30 per cent. The 1993 budget had pro-

management, because the Kuwaitis really do have the expertise and the necessary technical support to do it themselves.

and a modest revival in the

spurred by progress towards

settlement of an 11-year-old

bad debt problem stemming

from the 1982 collapse of an

informal bourse and longstand-

ing commercial losses

worsened by Iraq's 1990-91

Bankers say money is start-

ing to trickle back into the

country as Kuwaitis seeking

generous terms for early re-

pathyment liquidate overseas

assets to enter a settlement

cialists and fly in periodically

from banking centres such as

Bahrain or from Europe to

visit Kuwaiti individuals whose

total holding at home and

overseas run to billions of dol-

wealthy to shift large amounts

No-one expects Kuwait's

Part of the firms' challenge is

with toreign spe

stock exchange.

occupation.

ment market dominated by The firms will have to work hard to unlock even a part of the multibillion dollar treasure alisation of the banking system

chest individual Kuwaitis have stockpiled over the years with foreign investment companies. The ratio of Kuwaiti private funds placed with foreign as against Kuwaiti firms is put by

one Kuwaiti company at 100-1. The Kuwaiti companies say their track record so far in managing private investors' money is as good as anyone's and they have an advantage in being on the doorstep of their customers. Many of whom are very wealthy be any standards.

About 25 commercial banks. state investment firms, insurance and property firms last month held their first exhibition of financial products for individual Kuwaiti investors.

The firms were promoting products including deposit accounts, currencies, gold, bonds, commodities, shares, mutual funds, property portfolios, insurance and time share plans.

"It's probably too early to talk about an active personal investment scene," one banker

with the emphasis on foreign

to Kuwaiti managers right away, but Kuwaiti firms hope "Butt there is a sense of to attract funds from the less frustration and impatience well-off plus some from the rightest Kuwaitis that could

grow as a proportion of their holdings over time. One Kuwaiti firm sets a \$10

million minimum requirement for Kuwaiti investors seeking The companies say they individual management, want to boost public awareness Yousef Al Hassawi, general of a growing range of Kuwaiti manager of state-owned investment products being created to fulfil opportunities Kuwait Foreign Trading Contracting and Investment Company, (KFTCIC) said firms flowing from a gradual liber-

could easily double their private Kuwaiti funds under management if only they made a Both developments have concerted effort, "The first advantage we have is performance compared to foreigners. Plus, we are very close to our clients here they can come and see us anytime. physically we have an advantage," he said. "If companies

can provide the right product I

think we'll see some Kuwaitis bringing their funds to local companies. The competitive personal investment marketplace is far removed from the sheltered realm of Kuwaiti public finance, where state-owned or isted investment offices worked closely with the gov-

ernment to manage its huge oil surpluses. Three large companies which played that role. KFTCIC, Kuwait Investment Company and Kuwait International Investment Company, performed indifferently in the 1980s, partly due to the 1982 crash of an informal bourse

built on post-dated cheques. Much-publicised allegations of corruption in the manage-

Maha Al Ghuneim, senior international houses and if you vice president of portfolio don't perform they are not management at KFTCIC, said going to keep their money. Yet some Kuwaitis shied away the amounts under manage

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR MONDAY JANUARY 2, 1994

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Consider new interest that appeal to you. Take time to really study them from all angles so that when you put them into action your plan will be well-rounded and leave you an escape

ARJES: (March 21 to Apol 19) You are highly inspired now how to attain your greatest aspirations with relative ease. Follow through. Meet key people at interesting places and be your most charming self.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Take over with kin how to have greater security, happiness. Help them to help themselves. Be more progressive, get oid of whatever is old-fashioned and u unisance.

GEMINI: (May 2t to June 21) Get in touch with associates in every sphere of your existence and talk over ideas and plan for the future. Be more successful at any project.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Much can be accom-plished now, so be sure to work diligently and also in cooperation with fellow associates. Exchange good ideas

LEO: |July 22 to August 21) This can be a wonderfully happy day for you. Commercialise on your social talents, see the right peo-ple. Then be olf for the good times that you most appreciate. VIRGO: (August 22 to Septemher 22) Be most devoted and loyal to close lies now and do

By Thomas S Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation what they desire of you, so that you impress upon them that they

come first with you. LIBRA: (September 23 to Octoher 221 Your linest benefits come from progressive and dynamic friends today, so be sure to approach them for ideas and cooperation in any project.

year," she said.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Tend strictly to money-making projects today and be particularly cooperative with associates who are practical. Also, impress higher-ups with

your fine business acumen. SAGITTARIUS: |November 22 to December 21) An ideal day to look into new system and outlets. make fine contacts that will mean

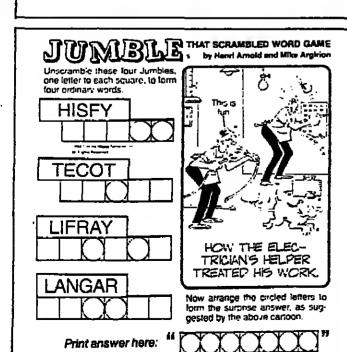
greater prosperity in the early future for your success. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 2011 A particularly fine day for investigations that will give you the data you need at this time, but be selective, think big. Get out to cultural pursuits in the

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get into friendly circles and those who are truly loayl now so I hat you get good adrice and ideas how to get along better with partners, be more

successful. PISCES: [Fehruary 20 to March 20) If you get business affairs it order and get credit rating higher. a higwig will then give you the backing you need at this time. one who wields a good deal of influence in your life.

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but I was lying."



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Andy Capp







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dollar's appreciation Meanwhile Japan in November while compared to the prebelow 111 58 ven. dut level. The dollar within apprenated slightly

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Balow volume : agamst other or a apprenated in that breached ! The in Germany reduced Madimir Zinirin.... US Index of Le Existing Home Sale m November Bur. due to dealers who a

its affect on L 📏 . The dollar constr ourrences Thursday against the pound Meanwhile most mil commute its app 1991 due to the rein in the test of the 1.7355 marks and 1

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Foreign Exchange Market Summary (December 27 - December 31, 1993)

AMMAN — The dollar appreciated substantially against all other major currencies ar the end of last week. It ended 2.57 per cent higher against the mark, 1.76 per cent higher against

sterling, while appreciating 1.06 per cent against the yen-The U.S. unit rose against the mark and yen Monday, while it depreciated slightly against sterling. The negative impact of the Japanese prime minister's remarks the previous Friday, in which he didn't give concrete plans to boost the Japanese economy, continued to depress Tokyo stock prices, which in turn contributed to the dollar's appreciation against yen, in addition, a 6.9 per cent decline in Jupan's November Retail Sales, after a 5.5 per cent decline in October, contributed to dollar's appreciation against the yen,

Meanwhile, Japan's Construction Orders fell 16.1 per cent in November, while Industrial Output grew by 1.8 per cent compared to the previous month. The dollar ended the day below 111.58 yen, however, after it faced stiff resistance at that level.

The dollar witnessed a temporary relapse Tuesday, it appreciated slightly during reading hours after the release of a positive U.S. Consumer Confidence report, which showed an increase to 80.2 per cent in December compared to 71.9 per cent the previous month. But the dollar started to retreat due to year-end booksquaring. A report indicating a 0.8 per cent decrease in December U.S. department store sales compared to the previous month had no effect on the dollar.

Meanwhile, speculation that the Bundesbank might reduce German interest rates during its council meeting on Jan. 6. 1994, abounded, together with speculation concerning the exchange rate policy that the U.S. administration might follow with Japan Tafter the criticism that some-of-its officials expressed towards Japan's compliance with the U.S.-Japan trade framework.

In a low volume market, the dollar appreciated substantially against other major currencies Wednesday. The dollar appreciated in part due to stop loss buying after it had breached 1.717/1 marks. In addition, demand for dollar as a safe haven currency increased after Bulgaria expelled and Germany refused entry to the Russian ultra nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky. The dollar also appreciated after the U.S. Index of Leading Indicators rose 0.5 per cenr and Existing Home Sales were reported to have risen 2.9 per cent in November. But, the dollar faced resistance at 111.80 year due to dealers' worry about continued dollar appreciation and its affect on U.S.-Japan trade relations.

The dollar continued its appreciation against other major currencies Thursday, to close at its highest levels of the week against the pound and the yen.

Meanwhile, most dealers' expectations were that the dollar will continue its appreciation against other major currencies in 1994 due to the relative growth in the U.S. economy compared to the rest of the industrialised world. The dollar closed at 1.7355 marks and 111.83 yen, while sterling closed at 1.4762 dollars.

In quier trading Friday, the dollar continued its appreciation against the mark, while stabilising against sterling and the yen. The dollar's appreciation against the mark was primarily attributed to the very low trading volume. The dollar, rhus ended the year at 1.7382 marks and 111.83 yen, while sterling ended it at 1.4770 dollars.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the

1.5034	1.4770	11.7618
1.6935	1.7382	[2.57]g
.4328	1.4850	13.7115
5.7690	5.9190	12.53)%
110.65	. 111.83	11.0618
	7690	5.7690 5.9190

Euro-Currency Interest Rates					
	24/12/	24/12/1993		31/12/1993	
Currency	I-Month (%)	1-Year I'vi	I-Month (%)	1-Year (%)	
U.S. Dollar	3.31	.3.68	3.10	3.68	
Sterling Pound	5 12	5.12	5.38	5.12	

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7040	0.7060
Sterling Pound	1.0397	1.0449
Deutsche Mark	0.4046	0.4066
Swiss Franc	0.4726	0.4750
French Franc	0.1188	0.1194
Japanese Yen"	0.6293	0.6324
Dutch Guilder	0.3614	0.3632
Swedish Krona	****	*****
Italian Lira*	0.0411	0.0413
Belgian Franc	****	*****
		•

Saudi Arabia slashes spending in '94 budget

Expenditure cut by 20%; determination seen to defend riyal

MANAMA (R) - Saudi Arahia, pressured by falling oil prices and international criticism that its finances unveiled too much on deht, has unveiled a halanced 1994 hudget cutting spending hy a hig 20 per cent.

Economists struggled Sunday to descipher the hudget and figure out whether weak oil prices and continued pressure to spend would enable the government to meet its amhitious target.

But they said King Fahd at least had made clear he would defend the Saudi rival despite the speculative pressure it has faced since critical Western . news stories surfaced in Au-

"At least the king put his signature to the no-devaluation," one hunker in Saudi Arabia commented.

and the governor of the Saudi Arahian Monetary Agency had suid in November there would be no devaluation. To have the royal prestige added to this statement made hankers sit up and take notice.

Saudi riyal inrerhank deposit rates, which had been pushed well above comparable dollar rates over the past several months, immediately came off Sunday, and the spot rival strengthend as well although hanks in Europe and New York were closed.

"We will preserve the value of the rival wirhour any. changes, that is what I want to stress on this occasion." the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted the king as saying.

The King also hunned the signing of new contracts which

uhligations in 1994 -- a step which could conceivably he circumvented by government agencies borrowing for projects hut which showed determination to cut.

SPA did not give a full hreakdown of the hudget but said spending would fall to 160 hillion rivals (\$442.67 hillion) from last year's hudgeted 196.95 hillion (\$52.52 hillion). Ir also projected revenues at (6) hillion rivals.

An earlier reading of the mass of Arabic decrees and reports had suggested a deficit af. 4.5 billion rivals (\$1.2 billion) though it appeared that this referred to a deficit in the budger for municipalities and the water department only.

Last year the government hudgered a deficit of 27.8 bil-

would add to government lion rivals (\$7.4 hillion) hut the kingdom is particularly sensitive to the fortunes of the oil market.

> Seventy-five per cent of government revenue comes from oil. SPA said in a paragraph talking about the effect of oil prices in 1993. On close rading it was not clear whether this referred to a specific year or the public revenues in general.

> SPA has not yet revealed, as it has sometimes done in the past. 1993's actual spending, revenue and deficit figures.

> Bur with the fall in oil prices analysts believe the deficit may have swelled well beyond the \$7.4 billion budgeted figure to at least \$10 hillion and possibly as much as \$15 hillion.

The king admitted that world economic situation and rhe excess of oil supplies to the

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market had affected revenue.

But he said: "We expect this situation (weak oil prices) to change not at a very far date. God willing, if all oil producing states cooperate. We aspire to

Britain and Norway have made elear they do not intend to cooperate in any curs. however, and analysis were uncertain as to whether to read into this a forecast that Saudi policy might soften and prices

The analysts said prices would almost certainly have to rise substantially from current depressed levels to he able to reach the 1994 targets, SPA did nt reveal the oil price assumptions on which the hudger is based.

But analysts - calculating the cost of production, oil set aside for harter trade, subsidies given to local consumption and adding in sales of condensates - say it appeared to be based on a price for Arah Light crude of somewhere around \$14-\$16/harrel.

Arah Light ended 1993 at \$10.70 per barrel, and for prices to rise by more than \$3 on average during the year would imply Brent crude averaging more than \$16, well above the \$13-\$15 range with which traders have begun to feel comformable.

"It's going to be hard to meet this budget with high subsidies, high population growth and low oil prices." an analyst said.

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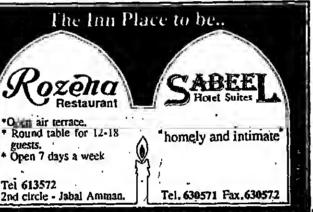
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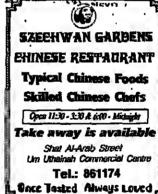
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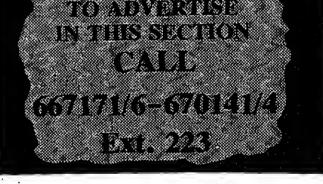
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SARAJEVO (R) - A grim new year has brought fresh bouts of shelling of besieged Sarajevo, a threat of a new offensive in central Bosnia and sucrpstitious fears that 1994 will not end the violence.

Bosnian government leaders predicted their forces would soon make a push to capture central Bosnia's strategic Lasva Valley if Croats there could not be persuaded to leave without a fight.

Sarajevo's first haby of the new year was a hoy and according to local superstition this means the city witt face another year of war in 1994. Hospital authorities said 30-

year-old Zejreka Dzafovic, the wife of a police officer, gave birth to a boy of four kg (nine pounds) on the evening of Jan.

The gloomy superstition attached to the hirth of a boy as the new year's first haby stems from Sarajevo's unsetiled history over the past century. In 1914, the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in the city led to World War 1.

Over the new year weekend, the city was hit by shells that wrecked homes and damaged a United Nations peacekeepers'

headquarters. At least five people died and more than 40 were wounded Friday and Saturday as Serb gunners kept up their 21-

month siege of the city.

A 70-year-old woman was buried in rubble after two shells landed in quick succession in a residential neighbourhood. When rescuers moved her, amidst chocking dust, skin flopped from a head wound to reveal barc skull.

As dust settled, neighbours searched frantically for the

"May the Serbs and then children suffer the same hell." said Karmen Bozic, a resident of the building where the injured woman was found.

"I go to church every day to pray for everybody in the city. think that's the only thing that saved me.

U.N. sources said new year celebrations by peacekeepers were interrupted Saturday shortly after midnight when an artillery round hit their building on a wind Boulevard known as sniper alley because it is exposed to gunfire.

Part of the building was destroved but no one was injured.

Valery Giscard D'Estaing, on a visit to Sarajevo, said he had suggested several options to hasten a peace settlement in a meeting with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic.

"I have given him some proposals, which Mr. Izetbegovic said he would consider. which would lead to a quicker

Mr. Giscard D'Estaing, who heads the French parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee. refused to elaborate.

In the ski resort of Pale, near Sarajevo, the Bosnian Serbs' self-styled parliament postponed debate on the latest peace talks until Jan. 10, a few days before the warring parties are due to reconvene in Gene-

Parliamentary speaker Momeilo Krajisnki, quoted by the Serbian Radio Pristina. said there would be no more concessions to the Muslims, who rejected the latest Bosnia carve-up plan.

"I hope that...an agreement will be reached, but if the fundamentalist and militant forces in the Muslim camp do not allow this, nothing remains for us than to defend out

The Yugoslav State News Agency, Tanjug, quoted Bosnian Serb army sources as saying Muslim forces attacked their positions in the Ozren area south of the northern town of Doboj overnight.

Bosnian Vice President Ejup Ganie made clear that his forces were not ready to slop fighting yer and said the Muslims meant to wrest control of the rich Lasva River Valley from rebel Croats in 1994, by force of arms or negotiation.

The Lasva Valley runs west from Novi Travnik through Vitez to Busovaca in central Bosnia. Muslim fraces have surrounded about 65,000 Croats in the area for more than six months.

The Bosnian government wants the valley to secure its hold on central Bosnia and to provide tiving space for hundreds of thousands of Muslims refugees driven from their homes by Serb and Croat

Muslim forces also want to captine a huge explosives factory in Vitez, to be used as part of a home-grown munitions industry to circumvent an in-ternational arms embargo.



A Sarajevan carries a wood burning stove to his house through a snow-covered old Muslim cemetery In the outstkirts of Sarajevo (AFP photo)

Anglo-Irish peace plan seen in crisis

DUBLIN (R) - An Angio-Irish plan to bring peace to Northern Ireland appeared elose to collapse Sunday after a earefully planned surge in guerrilla violence by the IRA and hardline statements from its political arm. Sinn Fein.

Republican sources said attacks on both the political and military fronts appeared to herald a formal rejection of the initiative in coming weeks unless the British and Irish governments backed down and made major concessions.

Martin McGuinness, a top Sinn Fein official, said in remarks published Sunday that the plan was flawed because it failed publicly to commit Britain withdrawing from the province it partitioned from Ireland seven decades ago.

"Our position remains what it has been in the past, the British should be out of here in the lifetime of a parliament, within five years," Mr. McGuinness told the Dublin Sunday Business Post.

He said it would take three weeks before Sinn Fein gave its formal response to the Dee. 15 Anglo-Irish plan and repeated demands for direct talks on it, which both Britain and Ireland have repeatedly ruled out.

Mr. McGuinness was careful not to explicitly dismiss the initiative by Prime Ministers John Major of Britain and Albert Reynolds of Ireland but his language was the most dismissive Sinn Fein bas used since Dec. 15. "What answer do I give to asks me — does this declara-tion signal the end to British rule in Ireland?" Mr. McGuinness asked. His remarks, coupled with a weekend firebomb blitz by the

IRA — the Irish Republican Army - in Belfast and the killing of a British soldier in a sniper attack last Thursday marked a elear Republican

Republican sources said IRA guerrilla fighting to drive Britain from the province have decided to stee up attacks to inflame British public opinion and provoke withdrawal from Northern Ireland.

"We're going tri sec more of these attacks. The idea is to get the British to throw up their hands and say let's get out of Northern Ireland for good, 'You'll see a lot more attacks on British soldiers," one Re-publican source said.

The sources said a renewed bombing assault on targets in mainland Britain could not be ruled out as part of the strategy to put domestie pressure on John Major.

The firebomb blitz, which caused millions of pounds of damage to shops, was part of the same strategy because British taxpayers would foot the bill for compensation.

Mr. Major and Mr. Reynolds said in the Downing Street Declaration, named after Mr. Major's official London residence, that Sinn Fein could join political talks once the IRA laid down its arms.

The British prime minister told parliament hours after the declaration was unveiled that it was no threat to the United Kingdom because it did not meet Sinn Fein demands for a commitment to unification or even joint Anglo-Irish rule of Northern Ireland.

"If...the British government are saying our private position is the same as our public position, that articulated in the House of Commons after the declaration was made, then I'm afraid the prospects of the declaration as far as Republicans are concerned, to say the least, are worthless," Mr. McGuinness said.

The declaration said Irish people from north and south should have a say in the future of their island but gave the Protestant majorty in Northern Ireland a veto over any moves towards unification with Ire-

Mr. McGuinness said Britain should pressure Protestant unionist politicians who want to maintain 300-year-old links with Britain to end their opposition to reuniting Ire-

"That is the key to unlocking the door," he said.

"The British have to become the persuaders. They have to become wholeheartedly involved in a campaign to persuade the unionists that their best interests lie in the context of a totally changed situation from what they have known in

Singer Wynette critical with massive infection

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MANTESBURG : AFP

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NASHVILLE. Tenn (R) -Country singer Tammy Wynerte remained in critical condition Friday with a massive intestinal infection caused by a blocked hile duct. "The doctors were quite impressed with Tammy's improvement, but she is not out of the woods yet. She remains in critical condition in intensive care. Wynette's publicity agent Evelyn Shriver said. No decision has been reached on possible surgery on the 51-year-old sinshe said. Doctors are working on curbing the infec-tion. Wynette, best known for her recording of Stand By Your Man, was rushed to Nashville's Baptist Hospital early Tuesday but news of her illness was not made public until an erroneous report that she had died was circulated. Doctors diagnosed her blockedbile duct problem late Thursday night. "They can now drain it, but she is still in intensive care." Ms. Shriver said. Ms. Shriver said the blockage occurred when scar tissue from previous surgery hecame infected. Wynette underwent hile duct surgery last year and has been plagued by ill health for years. Wynette's husband and manager. George Richey, said there had been "an outpouring of love" from peers who had sent calls and flowers. Well-wishers included rock stars Sting and Elton John and country music celebrities Reba McEntire. Smokey Robinson, Naomi Judd and Garth Brooks.

Streisand holds 1st paid concert in 22 years

LAS VEGAS (AP) -- Barhra

Streisand overcame her self-proclaimed fear of the concert

stage with the help of 14 teleprompters and the enthusiasm of a sold-out crowd. "I did it. I did it. I did it." she exclaimed as she was accorded the last of several standing ovations on New Year's Evc. It was Ms. Streisand's first paid concert in 22 years, and she drew the praise of fans who paid \$50 to \$1,000 or more to attend what some considered the event of the New Year's weekend. A second concert Saturday night at the 15,200-Seat MGM grand garden drew pop superstar Michael Jackson, who walked into the arena with a 20-person' entourage and waved to a roar-ing crowd. He took his seat a dozen rows back from centre stage as the music began. The message was clear when she opened her two-night sland with the song Everything's as if we never said goodbye. "I'm a little nervous. Forgive me, she told the crowd. "I can't believe I'm actually back here." Ms. Streisand told the Associated Press two years ago that she had quit paid concerts hecause she was scured. "I got the notion in my head that I would forget the words," she said. On Friday, a dozen teleprompters along the front of the elaborate stage and two more above the audience flashed the lyrics and her monologues. "One of the things about growing older is you learn you can survive life's disappointments," she told the andience. "Another is that you begin to appreciate yourself, flaws and all." Ms. Streisand mesmerised the audience with her classics: People. He Touched Me, Evergreen and The Way We Were. In my life I have never felt an experience like this," said misty-cyed Elaine Honikman, who travelled 3,000 miles from Sharon, Mass., to attend the show. Friends said Ms. Streisand also shunned paid concerts because of safety concerns. Nine metal detectors

little they could do about it. were set up to check concertgoers, contributing to an hour's delay in the start of Friday's show. Ms. Streisand's last paid concert was in 1971. when she worked a four-week engagement at the Las Vegas Hilton (or a reported \$1 million. The Friday and Saturday concerts were expected to bring her much more than that. although no one would confirm reports in entertainment trade publications that the figure could reach \$20 million.

U.K. bookmaker offers 1994

brockmaker has offered odds of A. Hat U.S. President Bill Clintun would resign in 1994. and considered Nelson Mandein a near certainty to become South Africa's first post-apartheid president. William Hill, offering gamblers a chance to try their luck on 1994 predictions, put the chances of Britain's Queen Elizabeth abdibeing found alive was a 25041 Atchbishop of Canterbury

ernment, residents of the Gonzalez declared during an Mexico (AFP) — Mexico's "occupied" towns - San Crisinspection visit to the state that San Cristobal, a city of 80,000 tobal De Las Casas, Ocosingo,

Mexico 'worried' after talks fail to halt uprising

TUXTLA GUTIERREZ. southern Chiapas state government said Sunday dialogue had failed to quell a revolt by Indians who seized control of five towns Saturday, killing at least six policemen

In an official communique the government said it considered the situation "wor-It said the Indians - from a

previously unknown group calling itself the Zapatisia National Liberation Army (EZLN) — had been infil-trated by "individuals with obvious paramilitary capacities. At the outset it had described them only as Indian peasants.

The group "has a powerful arsenal of weapons" and its members are wearing a uniform of "green pants and eoffee-coloured shirts with red and black insignia" and "calling themselves liberation forces," the communique

According to the local gov-

Altamirano, Las Margaritas and Chanal -- denounced the fact that "several Catholic priests and their deacons, supporters of Liberation theology, have joined the rebels and are assisting them with the San Cristobal Diocese's radio sys-

The estimated 200-300 EZLN rebels - who took name from Emiliano Zapata, an Indian leader and hero of the 1910 Mexican Revolution - were also in contact with "the Revolutionary Peasant Workers-People's Union Party and the Poor People's Party. the local government said.

Federal Deputy Interior Minister Ricardo Garcia called on peasants in the state to remain calm and to settle their problems by legal means, the Mexican News Agency, Notimex, reported. Interior Minister Patrocinio

inhabitants, was under siege following an EZLN-imposed curfew there, Mexican television and radio reported.

Although Sunday's official government communique announced that at least six policemen had been killed and an unspecified number of people injured in the revolt, Mexican Radio reported at least 10 deaths and Notimex spoke of II injured policemen.

Three Chiapas state bishops - Monsignor Samuel Ruiz of San Cristobal De Las Casas, Monsignor Felipe Aguiree of Tapachula and Monsignor Felipe Arizmendi of Tuxtla Gutierrez - have offered to mediate between the Mexican government and the EZLN.

Bishop Ruiz said the offer was made to avoid a bloodbath, but the government had not yet decided whether to negotiate or to intervene mili-

The rebels had already shown "goodwill" by allowing the evacuation of 120 foreign tourists from San Cristobul, the bishop said, who is known for his actions in favour of human rights, particularly for Indians.

The rebel Indians distributed a "declaration of war" against the government and the army Saturday, in which they said: "We are aware that the war we are declaring is an extreme measure, but it is justified. The EZLN called on all In-

dian tribes in Chiapas state to rally to the uprising to condemn "the dictators who have been leading a war of genocide" against native peoples for many years. We will not halt our com-

bat until the fundamental needs of our people are satisfied," the EZLN declaration

The revolt is the first of its kind in Mexico for 20 years.

S. Africa killings cloud start of 1994

JOHANNESBURG (R) - blacks and wounded two in an for an end to the cycle of lolerance and national reconciliation, killed at least cight blacks in South Africa in scattered altacks on the first day of 1994, police said Sunday.

Five men and a woman were killed in attacks Saturday in Johannesburg's satellite townships of Tokoza and Katlehong. Police spokeswoman Lieutenant Janine Smith said most had been shot hut one man had been strangled and

Gunmen in the eastern port of Durban shot dead three

Salurday. In another Durban incident, a 22-year-old man was injured in an explosion in a minibus taxi.

The killings blighted the start of the year that will usher in multi-racial democracy and

Political analysis say the first few months of 1994 could be even more violent than 1993 because of the uncertainty before the first all-race elections

end 350 years of white domina-

on April 27. President F. W. De Klerk

appealed on New Year's Eve

ien, ignoring appeals for attack on a squatter camp violence in which more than 13,000 people have been killed sinee he unbanned black opposition groups and began dismantling apartheid in February, 1990.

"We must do more to bring it to an end," Mr. De Klerk told a nation mourning four people killed by black gunmen at a Cape Town pub just before midnight Thursday and more than 3.200 other victims of political violence in 1993.

He urged tolerance and national reconciliation, saving 1994 would be the start of a new era in South Africa.

U.S. knew of PoWs in Laos — report

Wasiiington Iapi --Newly declassified documents show the United States had information that suggested some downed American pilots being held prisoners in Laos were not released at the end of the Vietnam Wat, the Washington Post reported in Sunday's editions.

The Detence Department officially lists 333 Americans as missing in action in Lags. Most of them prohably were killed when their aircraft crashed. and others may have been killed by the pro-Communist Pathet Lao finces. Officially, only two U.S.,

fliers are known to have been held by Pathet Law rebels, and the Pentagon believes both men Unl. Charles Shelton and Lt. Col. David Hidlicka -died in captivity in the 1960s. But 500 reels of microfilmed

documents — made available at the Library of Congress in recent months -- provide same support for those who believe the number once held in Laos was perhaps as high as 41, the Post said. Althnugh the evidence is in-

conclusive, the documents from the State Department. CIA and Defence Intelligence Agency support earlier jesti-Nixon administration idficials that they feared at the time that U.S. prisoners had been left behind. hut they decided there was

Of the 591 Americans released by North Vietnam in 1973, only nine had been eapinred in Laos. They were held by the North Vietnamese, and not by the Pathet Lao.

Khmer Rouge, government move towards talks amid battlefield pressure PHNOM PENH (AFP) -- Co-Ptemier Prince Notation and we have to defend

Ranariddh said Sunday the government and the Klimer Rouge had acreed on represematives to negotiate a peace proposal, yet fighting escalated in northwest Cambodia.

A working committee would consist of two cabinet ministers. Sok An from the Cambodian Peoples Party and Veng Sereyvutli from FUNCINPEC. and Khmer Rouge officials Tep Khunnal and Chuon thasith, the prince said,

Mr. Sok An said he believed the meeting would take place soon, as the prince said the radical faction was eager to

But he admitted that despite the progress toward negotiations, fighting continued. Both sides were blaming the other as the aggressor.

In some places the Khmer Rouge take the initiative to

ourselves," Mr. Sok An said That military officials however told a different story. saying government forces had attacked Klimer Rouge bases south of the barder hown at Poinet in the third emiseening day of clashes.

The Information Ministry acknowledged that govern-ment troops were still "keep-ing pressure" on the guerrillas in the area around the Klinter Rouge's headquarters at Anlong Veng in northern Siem Reap province.

Cur main aim is to defend government positions but that floes not mean that we have to keep quiel. Sometimes we need to move first." Mt. Sok An said.

To be discussed by both sides is King Norodom Sihamouk's peace proprisal, in

able" Khmer Ronge members will be given senior cabinet posts if the guerrillas cease military activity, open their zones and merce their fighters with the national army.

During a recent clandestine meeting between Klimer Rouge nominal leader Khien Samphan and Prince Ranaridelli, both sides agreed to set up the working committee to discuss the implementation of the king's proposal. But the prince later ques-

tioned the tebel leader's sincerity, after Mr. Khien Samphan would not first agree to a

"We are willing to end all problems by political means that's the government policy." said Mr. Sok An, adding that a ceasetine was a priority. But first we have to stop the killing

which he suggests that "accept-

clairvoyant odds LONDON (Rt — A British

cating at 50-1. Elvis Presley chance and punters could get odds of 1.000-1 that the would announce the second coming of Jesus Christ.

ISLAMABAD (R) - Pakisover which the neighbours tan said talks with India on the have fought two of their wars since independence from Briexplosive issue of disputed Kashmir began Sunday on a tain in 1947. serious note as Islamabad cal-Mr. Leghari told Mr. Dixit Pakistan wanted a peaceful

talks on Kashmir dispute

Pakistan, India begin

lcd on Delhi to end what it calls repression in the Indianruled part of the state. Western diplomats said they expected scant progress in the talks Sunday and Monday that end an 18-month hiatus in negotiations between the two old enemies and for the first

over divided Kashmir. The talks have started on a note of seriousness." a Foreign Ministry statement said after the first of four sessions on Sunday morning between the top diplomats of the two coun-

"The talks have so far focused on Kashmir," the ministry said. "In the first round the known positions of the two sides have been reiterated."

Pakistani Foreign Secretary Shaharvar Mohammad Khan and his Indian counterpart, J.N. Dixit, sat down after meeting President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, who urged India to "end repression in (Indian) occupied Kash-mir", a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

He quoted Mr. Leghari as saving that India's alleged repression had assumed grave proportions as it tried to crush a four-year revolt in the twothirds of Kashmir ruled by New

Pakistan controls the remaining third of the territory.

Happy New Year

The company of San Rock International Restaurants and Hotels proudly launch their first tourist investment project in Jordan — the land of giving and the oasis of stability, security and touristic heritage. And congratulates the Jordanian people on the new year, wishing them further progress and prosperity

under the Hashemite leadership.

agenda. Islamabad wants the predominantly Muslim Kashmiris time tackle head on the dispute

between the two.

to decide in a U.N.-mandated plebiscite whether to join Islamie Pakistan or secular but Hindu-majority India. Some militant groups fighting Delhi's rule in Jammu and

Kashmir, India's only Muslim

majority state, want to reunite

solution to the dispute, which

he said was the core problem

For the first rime, the issue

of Kashmir was formally on the

both parts of Kashmir as an independent state. Pakistan repeated its demand that India create conditions propitious to the search for a peaceful solution to the

"Pakistan has also underlined...the necessity for an end to the Indian repression in Kashmir for the creation of such conditions," the Foreign Ministry said.

After the first round, Mr. Dixit and Mr. Shaharyar flew to Karachi 10 meet Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who was holding a special cabinet meeting. A second round was to be held in the evening

The talks needed to show positive results, the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) quoted Ms. Bhutto as telling Mr. Dixii.

Jordanian Hospitality Is Our Business

NEWS IN BRIEF French law on nationality comes into force

PARIS (AFP) - With the New Year, reforms to France's law on nationality came into force, ending the automatic granting of French nationality to children born in France of foreign parents. Under the new legislation, such children will now have to apply for French citizenship between the age of 16 and 21. The change in the law was voted by a majority of parliament last July and is part of a package of measures aimed at strictly controlling immigration. These included a restriction to the right of asylum, which required a change in the constitution. From now on France is not obliged to examine requests for asylum if they have already been considered and refused by another member nation of the European Community (EC) signatory to the Schengen

accords on abolishing frontier controls. French minister slams Zhirinovsky

PARIS (R) - European Alfairs Minister Alain Lamassoure Sunday warned that France would not tolerate the sort of provocative statements made by Russian infra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirmevsky against European nations. Internewed on France 2 Television. Mr. Lamassoure stopped short of saying France would refuse an entry visas to Mr. Zhirinovsky, who has said he plans to visit the country next month. "We cannot tolerate the type of statements made by Monsieur Zhirmovsky." the minister said. "If he continues to issue such statements I cannot see how we could welcome him in

Aristide urges 'resistance' to military

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) - Haitian must de more to resist the Hattan mintary and its allies, exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide said in a radio address to his homeland, "We are on the road of resistance, mobilisation and resistance everywhere," Mr. Aristide said Saturday, "The year has to change gears so that the car of democracy will run more swiftly home." Mr. Austide, Hani's hist democratically elected leader gave the speech to mark Harris 190th anniversary of independence from Limite.

5 Chinese found murdered in Spain

VALENCIA. Spain (R) - Fire people found slaughtered in Chinese restaurant in the Spanish resort town of Gandia may have been the victims of a Chinese gang, police said Sunday The woman owner of the restaurant had had her throat slashed, while four waiters had probably been killed with an are, police said. Police said they believe the five may have been targetted in revenge killings by a Chinese gane involved in smugeling illigal immigrants into Spain.

Top Moscow mobster gunned down

MOSCOW (R) - A "mafia" mobiter who terrorised Moscow businessmen was assassinated early Friday, apparently by rival gangsiers, ITAR-TASS news agency said. The 4th-year-old man, known only as Frid, was brought to hospital in Kupayna gast of Miscow overnight, riddled with bullets, and died some hours later. TASS said he was the head of the Russian Balashikha gang which had clashed frequently with a rival "mafia" from the Caucasus Mountains, the Chechens. It said details were not yet known, but according to preliminary information from the Police Criminal Investigation Department, the Chechens were prohably responsible. Two people had been killed in recent clashes between the gangs. "In the opinion of the investigators, this neurder could lead to a lot more bloody settling of accounts." TASS said

Jordan to host 8th regional bridge championship in 1995

By Aleen Bannavan Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanian capital is set to become the bridge centre of the region when it hosts the 8th Bridge Federation of Africa. Asia and the Middle East (BFAAME) Championship in April-May 1995.

The internationally popular intellectual card game. officially first introduced in Jordan in 1979, has been steadily drawing a large number of players and fans in the Kingdom - a fact that led the World Bridge Federation (WBF) and the BFAAME council to accept the Jordan Bridge Association's (JBA) bid following WBF Vice President Mazhar Jaffi's visit to Jordan last week to examine facilities and arrange-

"I believe the JBA is fully capable of earning wide support to ensure a successful championship." Mr. Jafri told the Jordan Times.

. The JBA is wellorganised, and I was pleasantly surprised - Jordan's bridge club is probably the best of the zone." he

The WBF now has 94 member countries, represented by their national federations.

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have been divided into seven zones: North America: Europe: South America: Africa, Asia and Middle East: Central America and the Caribbean, the Far East and the Pacific.

Jordan is a member of the Africa. Asia and Middle East zone which also includes Bangladesh. Botswana. Egypt. India. Kenya. Kuwait. Mauritius. Nepal. Morocco, Pakistan, Reunion Island, Saudi Arabia, S. Africa. Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Tunisia. Uzbekistan and Zimpahwe

Competitions organised by WBF include the Bridge Olympiad. held in an Olympic year, in which every country can compete, and the World Championship, better known as the Bermuda Bowl and the Venice Cup. in which only qualifying teams from zonal competitions can take

The zonal biennial charapionship due to be held in Amman in 1995 will enable the top two teams of the open as well as the women's events to qualify for the World Championship due to be held in Beijing in Sept. 1995.

Mr. Jafn told the Jordan Times that he had, on behalf of the WBF, moved the Olympic Council of Asia and



World Bridge Federation Vice President Mazhar Jafri receives a shleld from Jordan Bridge Federation's Honorary President, Mrs. Nawzat Shaher

the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for the recognition of the intellectual game of hridge as an approved sport and said that he was hopeful of the possihility of a favourable outcome hy the end of the year.

"Anl IOC recognition will very much enhance the status of bridge as a mental game. I see no reason that could prevent bridge from hecoming an official sport because it fulfils the hasic requirements stipulated hy the IOC charter: "It is competitive and enhances friendship and goodwill among nations." he noted.

He said that WBF was now

providing textbooks to teach hridge and that many countries were making bridge part of school curricula after recorganising the game as a mental sport. You know, the fact that it

is a card game should not belittle its status. Chinese leader Deng Xio Ping once said 'when people see me swimming they think I'm physically fit, by when they hear of me playing hridge they think I'm mentally fit',

During his visit to Jordan. Mr. Jafri met Minister of Youth Abdullah Oweidat and JBA Honorary President Mrs. Nawzat Shaker,

Mr. Ghassan Ghanem. Jordan's representative in the BFAAME said that the JBA would now exert all efforts to ensure the championship's

"We are very much encouraged by Mr. Jafri's visit. We will now look for all kinds of sponsors and form committees to oversee the details of the championship." he

Mr. Ghanem noted that the number of bridge players in the country was rising constantly ever since the JBA was formed and accredited by the Ministry of Youth in

"We had 70 players when the JBA was first founded. Now we have over 400 registered members and we are hopeful many more people will learn and appreciate the game in years to come" he'

Unseeded Germans knock out S. Africa in Hopman Cup

PERTH, Australia (AFP) -Giantkillers Germany hecame Sunday the second team to eliminate seeded opposition from the Hopman Cup tennis mixed leams tournament when they knocked out South

Bernd Karbacher and Anke Huber defeated the eighthseeded South Africans Marcos Ondruska and Amanda Coetzer on the third day of the 760.000 dollar Australian (\$540,000) 12-nation contest.

Huber gave the Germans a flying start, beating Coctzer 7-6 (7/4), 3-6. 6-1 in a fiercely contested three-set thriller that lasted two hours. 12 minutes. Then Karbacher ensured his

country a place in the quarterfinals when he overcame Ondruska 6-4, 6-4 in only 77 minules.

South Africa secured a consolation prize when Ondruska and Coetzer defeated the German pair 8-7 in a mixed dou-

Germany now clash with the powerful second-seeded United States' paining of Ivan

Lendl and Mary Joe Fernandez Tuesday night. Germany won the competition last year when they were represented by Michael Stich and Sieffi Graf, but with the superstars unavailable to de-

even seeded this year. Karbacher conceded that the U.S. pair would be formidable opponents.

fend the title, they were not

I have never played Lendl before. But he is not used to playing in mixed doubles and anything can happen," he said. Perhaps our best chance of beating the U.S. is to win both

singles clashes. So there is no

pressure on us in the mixed

doubles," added Huber. Ondruska said he and Coetzer had been "very nervous" before their match with the

Germans, which got them off

In the women's singles, Hu-

ber was fully extended to overcome the tenacious Coetzer. The 19-year-old German,

ranked 10th in the world, threatened to overwhelm the South African, ranked 15th, racing to a 3-0 lead in the opening ser after breaking Coetzer's service in the first and third games.

But Coetzer, a short, stocky and fiercely determined player, rallied in dazzling style, breaking Huber's service three times to lead at 6-5. Huber levelled at 6-6 and, in the tie-breaker, remained steadier to clinch the set.

Coetzer's fighting qualities shone through in the second set, in which she broke Huber's service in the first, third and seventh games, and it was not until the deciding set that a more confident Huber established domination.

The cool Karbacher, with a world ranking of 54, always appeared to have the measure. of Ondruska (ranked 40th) inthe men's singles.

Switzerland also moved intothe quarterfinals of the Hopman Cup tournament Sunday when they knocked The Netherlands out of the 12nation contest.

Jakob Hlasek and Manuela Maleeva-Fragniers gave Switzerland an unassailable lead at the Burswood Dome when they both won their singles matches.

Hlasek defeated Jan Siermerink 4-6, 6-4, 7-5, and Maleeva-Fragniere overcame Miriam Oremans 3-6, 6-3, 6-0. Switzerland, for whom Hlasek and Maleeva-Fragniere won the Hopman Cup two years ago, now clash with the top-seeded Czech Republic pair. Petr Korda and Jana Novotna. Tuesday.

Chinese golden girls fail to clean up swimming gold

HONG KONG (AFP) - China's women swimmers took. three gold medals to increase their gold medal tally at the Epson Short-Course Swimming World Cup Sunday but the result still fell short of

Chinese swimmer Le Jingve - holder of short-course world records in the 50-metre and 100m freestyle events - easily took the 100m freestyle title to add to the two golds she won Saturday.

But, despite more golds from Dai Guohong and Lou Xia in the 200m and 50m breaststroke events respectively, the second day of this twoday meet was marked by disappointment for the Chinese women.

Pre-meet favourite Dai winner of four golds at the Short-Course World Championships in Lalma De Mallorca in early December - was

Mailage 37000 k.ms

disqualified for a false start in the finals of the 50m butterfly, which was won by Angela Kennedy of Australia.

After a strong showing Saturday, Australia's women swimmers continued to threaten China's dominance Sunday in the women's events as Elli Overton brought her meet gold medal tally to four, with wins in the 100m and 400m individual medleys.

Meanwhile. Australia's Mark Kowalski won the gruelling 800m freestyle marathon by more than seven seconds to help bring Australia's gold medal total to six.

The men's results were mixed, with the Russians performing strongly, but without a hoped-for record breaking swim from Alexandre Popov, who shaved 0.11 seconds off the 100m short-course with a time of 47.83 seconds Satur-

In a hotly contested 50m freestyle final, Lithuanian Raimundas Majuolis edged Popov out by 0.4 seconds to win his country's only gold of the tournament.

While Popov failed to take a gold Sunday, Vladimir Selkov, Denis Pakratov and Vladimir Pyshenko combined for a gold medal triple haul in the 200 m backstroke, 100m butterfly and 00m freestyle.

Nina Jivanesvkaya added to the Russian tally with victory in the women's 100m back-

stroke event. Christian Keller of Germany staked his claim as an individual medley specialist, winning the men's 200m title, after taking golds in the 100m and 400m individual medley cate-

gonerse. Compatnot Dagmar 'Hase won a powerful victory in the womeo's 400m freestyle to bring Germany's gold medal total to five, with Dane Mette Jacobsen winning Denmark's only gold with a win in the women's 200m butterfly.

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Foreign footballers scandal takes new turn in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (AFP1 -The foreign footballers scandal rocking South Africa has taken a new turn with a Liberian admitting he played here for two seasons under a false

Former national striker Friday Roberts fled the warravaged West African nation in 1991 to join Bloemfontein Celtic, a first division club from Orange Free State province. Celtie officials repeatedly denied media claims that the Liberian was a foreigner, and he became an established firstteam player using the name

Jordan Bridge Federation (JBA) President Bahjat are JBA Vice President Ghassan Ghanem (left)

Majali signs an agreement to host the 8th Bridge and World Bridge Federation Vice Possident

Williams. But Roberts, who previously for mighty Barolle of Monrovia, admitted Sunday that Celtic brought him into the country illegally and changed his

South Africa permits clubs to register five foreigners and field three, rules which some clubs allegedly break by altering players' names and giving them fake identity documents.

Responding to frequent

press reports of abuse, National Football Association officials launched an inquiry and the findings should be released during January.

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Both vulnerable. South deals. NORTH * K Q 9 8 4 © A 2 © K 7 4

VKQ9854 4 Q874 The bidding: South West North East

1 Pass 1 Pass
2 Pass 4 Pass

Page Page
Opening lead: Two of
It is easier for declarer, who sees all his side's assets, to read the open-ing lead then it is for the leader's partner, who has only one hand and dummy to work with. That affords declarer opportunities for deceptive plays which pose real problems for

This deal is from a club tourna-ment in Buffalo, N.Y. Sitting North-South were Jim Mathis and Gerald Fried. Since South's two-heart rebid promised a six-card suit,

Mathis' raise to four hearts would be the expert's choice.

West led the deuce of clubs, East won with the king and it did not take a card-playing wizard to work out that West's lead was probably a singleton. Therefore, declarer stood to lose two clubs, a ruff and the ace of spades. To paint a different pic-ture of the hand for East, declarer calmy dropped the oueen from calmly dropped the queen from

West could easily have led from four clubs, in which case trying to cash the ace of clubs might have been fatal. Declarer would ruff and the jack of clubs would be set up for a discard. So East shifted to the jack of diamonds. Declarer won, led a spade to the queen, returned to hand with a diamond ruff and led another spade. West shot up with the ace and returned the jack of

the ace and returned the jack of trumps, but declarer was in control. South won in hand with the king. drew another, trump with the ace, then discarded two clubs on the kings of diamonds and spades. When the spades divided evenly, declarer ditched his remaining club on a good spade as West ruffed. Declarer lost only one club, a club ruff and er lost only one club, a club ruff and the ace of spades.

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heads for talks with PLO chief

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - A group of Palestinian activists seeking'. reforms in the Palestine Liheration Organisation (PLO) left for Tunis Sunday for talks with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

The team is led by Haidar Ahdul Shafi, who served as the head of the PLO-guided negotiators in the 26-monthold peace talks with Israel, and includes members of the Palestine People's Party and the Palestinian Democratic Movement (FIDA) as well as independents.

Their meeting with Mr. Arafat, expected to begin late Sunday, came in response to several months of intense campaigning and a petition to the PLO chairman expressing discontent with the way he was handling PLO decision-making and negotiations with Israel on the implementation of the Sept. 13

autonomy accord. "The delegation is going to Tunis with an open mind, but the main objective of the visit is to ensure that Mr. Arafat changes his autocratic style." said a source close to reformist camp.

"We hope Arafat would live up to whatever he agrees at the meeting and would not return to his ways of promising something and doing something else." added the source, who preferred anony-

mity.
Unlike hardline PLO factions and activists who oppose the autonomy accord. the reformers endorse the autonomy agreement but argue that the PLO chairman's approach to peacemaking could undermine the Palestinians' quest for statehood by depriving their representative organisation of credibility in the international scenc.

Several members of the Palestinian peace negotiating team and their advisers as well as leading personalities from the occupied territories and the diaspora have joined

the reformers. Mr. Arafat, who has been ignoring earlier efforts by the reformist camp, agreed to meeting the delegation after. he came under heavy pressure from within the PLO

Executive Committee. Tayscer Arouri. a member of the delegation which left for Tunis Sunday, said early this month: "It is time the PLO leadership realised that building a state is different from running a revolutionary

The reference included an argument that Mr. Arafat. having secured international support and pledges of financial support for his peace moves with Israel, risked losing the backing if he continued to apply political considerations rather than individual qualifications and expertise in naming people to key jobs in setting up Palestinian infrastruture.

Dr. Abdul Shafi. quoted by Reuters. said: "We are determined to see that there is a positive response. It is not a challenge to Arafat's leadership. We want his leadership to be based on a more secure broad-based decisionmaking basis."
The Gaza-based physician.

who criticises the autonomy accord saying it falls short of Palestinian aspirations. said the timing of the meeting with Mr. Arafat was more pressing than ever as the negotiating process opened "the possibility of assuming responsibilities for running our own civic affairs."

"Our demand is that Arafat commits himself to democratic principles by seeking competent Palestinians and not by sacrificing qualifica-tions for political considerations." he said.

In addition to Dr. Abdul Shafi and Dr. Arouri, the delegation includes Nabil Amer, a former PLO envoy and Arafat confidant, and activists Abdul Hafez Asshab, Ghazi Khalil, Tawfig Abu Bakr, and Ibrahim Abu Ayash.

During his three-day stay in Amman after arriving from the West Bank, Dr. Abdul-Shafi met with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and several Palestinian figures in Jordan.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Dr. Abdul Shafi stressed the need for enhancing Jordanian-Palestinian coordination "particularly at this me when the peace talks are passing through a genuine crisis. "which requires closer Arab coordination to secure Arab rights and interests.



'Mafia dons on the run in Britain'

LONDON (AFP) — Britain has been selected as a "safe haven" by some of the mafia's most dangerous criminals, including the suspected assassin of the mafia-fighting Judge Giovanni Falcone the Sunday Times reported here. According to the paper, Italian authorities have given Scotland Yard a list of senior mafiosi on the run, whom they believe could be hiding here. They include Giovanni Brusca, 36, whom the weekly described as a member of one of the most powerful families in Sicily and, according to informers' evidence, the man who set off by remote control the bomb that killed Judge Falcone. Others on the list include Leoluca "the Colonel" Bagarella, 50, brother-in-law of Salvatore "Toto" Riina, the undisputed godfather of Sicily. A third mafia don, Bernardo Provenzano, a ruthless killer known as "the Tractor" because he "mows people down," may also be hiding in Britain, the paper said. Considered number two in the Corleone clan, he is wanted for several murders.

AFP pulls out Gulf HQ out of Bahrain

MANAMA (R) - The French news agency Agence France-Presse (AFP) said Sunday it was shutting down its Gulf headquarters in Bahrain and moving to Dubai this week. AFP deputy chief correspondent Hassan Haidar told Reuters that the agency, which had six correspondents and four other staff in Bahrain, was moving for technical reasons. Tuesday would be the last day of operations. He said that in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates, the agency was able to receive more of the Middle East's government news agencies, and it was also permitted to set up its own satellite dish on its building. Mr. Haidar said AFP had been in Bahrain for 17 years, during which time two correspondents had been expelled. He said the agency planned to hire a part-time correspondent to cover Bahrain

Mamedov to prepare summit

MOSCOW (AFP) - Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgi Mamedov left for Washington on Sunday to prepare the planned Moscow summit between presidents Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton from Jan. 12 to 15, ITAR-TASS reported. Mr. Mamedov said before he left that his talks in Washington would centre on disarmament and other issues on the summit agenda, the news agency said. Mr. Clinton is due to visit Moscow immediately after a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation summit m Brussels on Jan. 10 and II. He is also scheduled to make a brief trip to Belarus, one of the four nuclear powers of the former Soviet Union.

17 seamen still missing after freighter sinks

TOKYO (AFP) - Seventeen of the 29 crew members aboard the 6,700-tonne freighter Arctic Reefer were still missing Sunday after the Cypriot-registered ship sank overnight in the Pacific Ocean off Japan. officials said. Five patrol boats and three aircraft from Japan's maritime safety agency were continuing the search Sunday for the seamen in waters 500 kilometres south of Kochi prefecture in southwestern Japan. Twelve crew members - six Filipinos, four Greeks, a Dutch and a Burmese - were rescued alive. The freighter, bound for Venezuela from the eastern Chinese coastal city of Shanghai, sent out a distress signal Saturday, saying there had been an explosion on board.



PROTEST: Palestinian women shout at Israeli troopers shot and wounded at least six Palesti soldiers in the Gaza Strip Sunday after the nians, including a pregnant woman (AFP photo)

Defence concludes argument | Balladur in assassination plot trial

AMMAN (AP) - Defence lawyers Sunday rested their case in the trial of 10 Jordanians accused of plotting to kill King Hussein, rejecting pre-trial confessions and demanding the conditional release of the defendants.

Defence lawyer Omar Dhamra; reading a 150-page summation, argued that the confessions were extracted under torture and as such could not be admitted as evidence.

He demanded that the court return an innocent verdict and release the defendants. The State Security Court, a

three-man military tribunal. will hold a "final review" of the case Jan. 9 and set a date for issuing the verdict, prosecution sources said.

Under standing orders of the court, the defendants and witnesses could not be identified by name in media reports. Two of the accused are being tried Five military cadets, a mem-

ber of a guard unit of King Hussein and four others, including the two fugitives, are charged with plotting to assassinale the Monarch and pave the way for a take-over of power by the illegal Hezb Al Tahrir group.

Hezb Al Tahrir, a puritan group established in the early 50s, does not recognise any of the existing Arab governments and call for the establishment of an Islamic caliphate.

The prosecution charges that the five cadets, students at Muta University, a military college in south Jordan, were enlisted by Hezb Al Tahrir to

open fire at the King during a guard of honour at a Muta graduation ceremony on June

The students were told that as soon as the King was killed. pre-positioned Hezb Al Tahrir members were to take over radio and television stations and seize power, according to prosecutor Muhannad Hijazi, an army major.

Mr. Dhamra and other defence lawyers who addressed the court last week summed up that the accused were subject to "severe physical turture and psychological duress" to force them into signing the confes-

The statements, given by the eight accused during three months of detention at the intelligence department, are one of the pillars of the prosecution's case. All the defendants on court

retracted the confessions and entered innocent pleas at the outset of the trial, which began in September. The defence has also argued

that Hezh Al Tahrir did not espouse violence as a means to achieve its objective, and as such the prosecution charges based on the group's ideology were invalid.

Prosecution witnesses have testified that the five cadets were devout Muslims who resented the pro-Western "un-Islamic" policies of the govern-

They also told the court that the five were ardent admiters of Lieutenant Khaled Al Islambouly, who assassinated Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak during a Cairo military parade in October 1981.

Gunmen attack U.N. aid agency in Baidoa

MOGADISHU (AP) - Unidentified gunmen broke into a World Food Programme (WFP) compound in the southern city of Baidoa, killing one Somali and wounding another. U.N. officials said. A senior U.N. military offi-

cial said that it was premature to blame the attack on Muslim extremists, but said that U.N. analysts suspect the shootings may be part of a larger campaign against non-Muslim aid

'This is to a certain extent speculation, but it is based on information that we have. said the official, who spoke only on condition that his name not be published. U.N. officials are often hesitant to discuss intelligence matters

He declined to specify what further information the U.N. possessed about threats by Muslim extremists.

Beeause of poor communications between Mogadishu and Baidoa, few details were available Sunday on the shootings, other than that they took place Saturday night. The names of the victims, a guard and a driver, were not re-

WFP Director Gemmo Lodesani said he was uncertain if the attack was politically or religiously motivated or was simply an attempt to steal one of the U.N. agency vehicles. Well-armed looters frequently rob aid agencies, who hire guards to protect their opera-

Just before Christmas, an anonymous group elaiming to represent fundamentalist Muslims issued a statement threatening a holy war against Christian evangelism in Soma-

The group accused the U.N.

and aid groups of passing out Bibles in the Somali language and distributing items prohibited by Islam, including pork. pornography, alcohol and

"Anybody who tries to distribute anything concerning Christianity will be shot," said

On Christmas eve, unidentified attackers threw hand grenades into the Baidoa offices of Catholic Relief Services and the Irish charity Goal Ircland, injuring two Somali guards.

Almost all Somalis are Muslims, but locals say that very few people in the capital subscribe to violent religious views and that extremism does not present a major threat in the country at this time.

Mr. Lodesani agreed that it is too early to conclude that religious extremism is on the rise in Somalia, which has suffered years of political and clan-based violence that provoked the massive U.N. military intervention in December

'We receive threats every day," Mr. Lodesani said, "It might be the fundamentalists nobody knows.

He said attacks on aid workers have forced him to elose temporarily the WFP office in Bardera, in southwestern Somalia, and that further attacks would impede WFP opcrations elsewhere.

"My policy for 1994 is whenever I have a problem, I shut down," Mr. Lodesani

He did not say whether WFP would close its Baidoa office. There are 26,000 U.N.

troops from 29 countries in Somalia, including thousands countries such as from Pakistan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

chided for sending

Iranians

PARIS (R) - France's popular conservative Prime Minister Edouard Balladour faced harsh words Sunday for flying two suspected Iranian assassins home to safety instead of handing them over the Swiss justice.

to Tehran

Paris decision to reject a Swiss extradition request for the pair against the advice of its own courts brought criticism from the French and Iranian opposition as well as from victims of pro-Iranian attacks that terrorised France in the 1980s.

"Terrorism is international yet we're now refusing to cooperate with Swiss justice, said Francoise Rudetzki maimed in a 1986 bombing in Paris by guerrillas and now head of an association of victims of such attacks.

The opposition socialists said the decision was "incoherent and deplorably inconsequential.

Mohsen Sharif-Esfahani and Ahmad Taheri were taken from jail and flown home secretly last week despite a French court ruling in February in favour of their extradition to Switzetland.

Mr. Balladour made the ment on Thursday, two days after the flight.

."The French authorities have decided not to extradite (the two) for reasons invulving national interest. No further comment will be made on this affair." a statement from his

Asked to offer some explanation during a television talk-show on Sunday, European Affairs Minister Alain Lamassoure said: "At times brevity is best."

Refusing further comment. he said on France 2: "In the war on international terrorism. the least said the better."

Officials and police chiefs too remained silent. "One can only picsume a serious threat has been made," a French official, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters.

Arrested at Berne's request in Paris in November 1992, the men were wanted for the 1990 murder in Geneva of leading Iranian dissident Kazem Rajavi, hrother of Massoud Rajavi whoi heads Iran's

Mujahedeen-e-Khalq guerrilla movement, based in Iraq-In an unusually sharp statement, Switzerland described the move as "disconcerting" and lodged a formal protest 'against this breaking of the

European extradition accord." "Tension with Iran is undoubtedly more dangerous than tension with Switzerland," quipped the daily Le Monde newpaper.

"But appearing to cave in to the threat of terrorism is certainly not the best way to fight

Newspaper across the political spectrum saw Paris' decision as the latest twist in a decade of rocky ties with Iran's fundamentalist leaders in which successive French government had capitulated too often and perhaps to no avail.

The mass circulation conservative daily, France-Soir, called it "a strange gift from Paris to Tehran." The popular Le Parisien described the move as "astonishing."

It said that the tough-talking conservatives, who have rounded up scores of suspected Algerian fundamentalists and Kurdish separatists in the past few weeks, were compromising their own promises of muscle on the law and order front.

Sudan says British envoy worked against Khartoum The archbishop said on Fri-

KHARTOUM (Agencies) -Sudan has accused the British ambassador ordered to leave the country of working directly against the interests of the Khartoum government.

But a "highly-placed politic-al source" hinted in a report in the government newspaper Al Ingaz Al Watani Ihat the expulsion could be reversed if Britain understood why it was ordered. The unnamed official told

the newspaper Ambassador Peter Streams was responsible for the failure of Sudan's efforts to improve ties with the

The report on Sunday contained no specific examples of how Mr. Streams allegedly undermined his host state.

The official also said the expulsion had nothing to do with the ambassador's contacts with prominent Sudanese opposition leaders or controversy over a visit by the archbishop of Canterbury. spiritual leader of the Anglican

Military ruler Omar Hassan Al Bashir said on Saturday the aim of expelling Mr. Streams was to show Britain that Sudan was no longer part of the British empire.

"You have heard through the media that we have asked Britain, the colonial state, to recall its ambassador in Khartoum because he interfered in and encroached on what did not concern him," Lieutenant-General Bashir said in a speech to mark the 38th anniversary of independence.

"We wanted it as a lesson for them (the British)... that we are independent and will not permit anyone to harm our independence," he added.

Sudan said on Thursday it was giving Mr. Streams two weeks to leave the country. Britain has given Sudan until Tuesday to reverse the decision (see page 2).

The Sudanese government earlier blamed Streams for the cancellation of a visit to northern Sudan by Archbishop George Carey, who decided to visit only the rebel-controlled pulsion. the government newspaper said the ambassador's expulsion came after a long study of his behaviour.

day the decision was his alone

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Britain has threatened a titfor-tat expulsion of Sudan's ambassador to London if Khartoum's order stands. But Sudan has since moved its envoy, Ali Mohammad Osman Yassin, to New York where he is now Sudan's permanent representative at the United Nations. His replacement in London has not been named.

Ties with Eritrea

Sudan denied Sunday a charge by Eritrea that invaders launched an attack on it from Sudanese soill last month.

Al Ingaz Al Watani quoted an unidentified senior official as saying the charges were unfounded, and Sudan had no interest in changing the government in Eritrea or in carrying out hostile acts against it.

Sudan has faced charges by the West and its northern neighbour. Egypt of harbouring militants with backing by

President Isaias Aferwerki of Eritrea said Saturday that 20 invaders from Sudan, led by an Eritrean militarya commander, were killed in a shootout Dec. 16. He said they included Moroccans, Tunisians and Pakistanis, and were part of a holy war movement.

The attack had not been publicised at the time, but Mr. Aferwerki said there had been similar clashes along the border in a bid by fundamentalists to overthrow his government.

But, Al Ingaz Al Watani quoted the Sudanese official as saying: "There is no foundation for such allegations. It would be better to look for the real reasons of such tension."

The official pointed out that more than 500,000 Entrean refugees were being sheltered in Sudan, under the supervision of Sudanese security

Jordan-Qatar reconciliation sealed

(Caninued from page 1)

quest for a negotiated settlement with Israel based on the return of the Kingdom's territory occupied by the Jewish state and restoration of Jor-

Sheikh Hamad told Sunday's press conference that his country was seeking to end the rifts in the Arab World caused by the Gulf crisis, but it would be some time before the Arab countries would be able to settle their differences.

"Arah reconciliation needs time and it will take place in stages before Arabs can sit. down at one table again and start a frank dialogue," he

In unusually frank and unambiguous comments for a Gulf minister, Sheikh Hamad said Qatar's decision to send him to Amman on an official visit was "taken at the highest level" and that the visit had "removed all differences" be-

tween Amman and Doha. He expressed hope that Qatar's partners in the sixmember Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) would also follow Doha's example and seek to heal the strain in relations.

Asserting Doha's indepen-dent policy, Sheikh Hamad said that if other Arab countries "are not happy with our visit tu Jordan... then that is their problem."

The Oatan minister called on Arah states to end their ostracism of Iraq because Iraq "is an important country in the Arab Wurld and it is imperative to remove all misunderstandings that mar Arah relations.

Unlike its GCC partners. Qatar sent hack its ambassador to Baghdad shortly after the Gulf war over Kuwait. A senior Oatari defence official visited the Iruqi capital last month, triggering a protest from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Doha rejected the criticism.

Sheikh Hamad said Qatar was in no position to immediately resume aide to Jordan because of its own financial difficulties and the depression in international oil prices.

He criticised unnamed members of the Organisation of Petroleum Export Countries (OPEC) for overproduction, in violation of OPEC quotas, leading to the decline in oil prices.

'I believe that the barter deals reached by some OPEC members outside OPEC agreements should be immediately stopped and that these countries should ahide by the OPEC quotas." he

Sheikh Hamad, in the first such comment by a Gulf official, said his country was ready to normalise relations with Israel if progress was achieved in the Middle East peace process.

Confirming that he met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on the fringes of the 1993 session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Sheikh Hamad said he told Peres that his country was not ready to sign any agreement or cooperate with Israel "before progress is reached in the... peace negotiations."
He said while Oatar was

ready to lift the boycott of international firms dealing with Israel as soon as the peace talks make progress, it also believed that the general boycott of the Jewish state should be lifted only after the 23-member Arah League adopts a formal resolution to

Sheikh Hamad criticised Arab countries for their reticence to contact Israel and atso rejection of negotiations with the Jewish state in Arab capitals.

'If they could meet in Washington, Moscow and Peking, why not in Arab countries?" he asked. "It is a psychological problem...

Israel insists PLO accept paper

(Continued from page 1)

might take several more weeks. "There is no way back. This process is irreversible," said Education Minister

Amnon Rubinsicin. Mr. Rahin told his ministers Sunday that Mr. Arafat demanded thut the Jericho area be expanded to include a strtp I of beach on the Dead Sea and

a Jordan River site. Maghtas. where tradition says Jesus was baptised, Israel Radio reports

In an interview with Al Quds newspaper. Dr. Shaath said Palestinian negotiators trying to expand the size of the area under their control as much as possible had focused on at least three historic sites around Jericho.

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Korea near

U.S.'s wealthiest bachelor marries

LANAI Hawaii (R) - Bill Gates, chairman of Microsoft

Corp and America's wealthiest Number 18 bachelor, married his longtime girlfriend on this exclusive island Saturday surrounded by family and billionaire friends. en urges Arafat Gates, the nation's secondince accord richest person with a net worth of at lest \$6 billion, married Melinda French, a microsoft with leader Navef marketing manager from Dalopposed to the las, a source, who asked not to opposed to the scord called on liberation Organisa. be named told Reuters. The wedding took place on a spit of 10) leader Yasset Araland overlooking the blue wa-Tall leader of the ters of the Pacifie at the plush Manele Bay Hotel golf resort The leader of the shaded Democratic of the Liberation of [DFLP] said Mr. on the island just west of Maui, the source said. Erin Carney, a spokeswoman for Microsoft. doubt cancel the self-and join other said news organisations would be given written confirmation of the wedding but said a compal and join of the gal and join factors and Arab son factors and Arab son factors listed in their wideing Israel in the Middle peace in the Middle United Middle with Hawameth said Mr. W. Hawameth said Mr. W. Hawameth said Mr. pany statement might not be released until later Sunday, when an official photograph also would be distributed. Among the approximately 130 us on bad terms with sport of Palestinians sport of Palestinians around he signed with guests expected at the celebration were Nebraska investor Warren Buffett, the only doomed to fai-American wealthier than W. Arafai had made. Gates, and two other microsoft bions with Jordan debillionaires, Executive Viceis and destroyed coor. President Steve Ballmer and with Syria and Lebe. company co-founder Paul

performed the ceremony. Monk uses fire engine to sprinkle holy water

Allen. The Rev. William Sulli-

van. a Jesuit priest who is

president of Seattle University,

TWGTON (R) - The Janes and North Korea BANGKOK (R) — A Buddhist monk in northeastern Thaiwa deal on Pyonandear programme land used a fire engine to spray this wrapped up this 2,500 litres (660 gailons) of boly water on thousands of anday The official told followers to bless them for the miner are some issues new year. A source in the hemational Atomic firemen's office in Nakorn Approx must address Ratchasima 260 kilometres sasbeing done "soon. north of Bangkok, told Reuh but probably no ters by phone that Phra Koon, emes between U.S. 71, well known for his beliefs Med Korea negotiators in black magic and superstitions, borrowed a fire engine canded While he held for the ceremony. About ensibility that discus-10,000 people gathered in front allestend a bit longer. of the provincial ball as Phra ಕ್ಷತ್ತ who spoke on con-Koon prepared the boly water ar anonymity, went 20 U.S. officials have late, loaded it in the fire engine and turned the hose on followmay in mixing expectaers. Some Buddhist monks that a deal with Pyonwho believe in black magic say A was doe at hand. the boly water protects followers against bad spirits and Anlanned Saddarn brings good luck. Last August, In before war when the Royal Praza Hotel collapsed in Nakorn Ratchasi-FYORK(R) - The Un , killing 137 people and injuring more than 200 others, iblis decloped a secrei

3 Manage Iraqi Presi-Phra Koon performed similar rites at the scene which some rescuers said hampered their **Hearing set for**

Reynolds, Anderson

JUPITER, Fla (R) — Actiess

Loni Anderson elaims she is

nearly broke and needs tem-

porary alimony from her

estranged husband Burt

Reynolds to maintain ber

affluent lifestyle court docu-ments show. Lawyers for the

couple are scheduled to appear

in state court Monday for the

first in a series of bearings in

the high-profile divorce case.

The pair of celebrities own a

ranch in south Florida and

made frequent appearances on

behalf of local charities until

they filed for divorce last June.

Anderson, 47, claims she en-

tered the marriage in 1988 with

\$1 million in cash. She earned

about \$1.7 million during the

marriage, but spent all the

money on martial living ex-

penses and child care for the

couple's adopted five-year-old

son. Quinton, according to

court records. One of

Reynolds' attorneys disputed

the portrayal of Anderson as

on the verge of homelessness.

where she is destitute and re-

quires payment" Stuart Attor-

ney Noel Bobko said. "She is

gainfully employed and doing

very well." The documents did

not specify how much money

in alimony Anderson is seek-

ing. "During the marriage, the

parties enjoyed a prosperous

lifestyle, with homes in Flor-

ida, North Carolina and Cali-

fornia," Andersons attorneys

said in documents filed in Mar-

tin County Court, where the

couple's divorce case is pend-

ing. In addition to alimony, the

blond former star of television

asking that Reynolds pay her

altorney fees and experts

needed to prepare for the di-

vorce trial including account

tants, real estate appraisers

and a bankruptcy attorney. A

California judge ordered Reynolds, 57, to pay temporary child support after

Reynolds, star of the television

show "Evening Shade," filed

for divorce in Florida.

show WKRP In Cincinnati is

This is just not a situation

divorce case

isdan Hussein before it ed the attack that drove reg of Kowait in 1991 the managene has re-11 The plan is detailed in is from a new book \hat{o} mandos: The Inside d'America's Secret Solwitten by the magadiac correspondent A Waler. The book said Bolid for an attack on an Saddam either by the Delta lorce or the : IFAL team o and was dir the loint Chiefs of Parial operations divi-It mack was to have ace as President Sadwelled in and out of by heleopter of motor ther his army overtion any in August 1990.

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will have the title of
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